

Winter 2007

Columns Winter 2007

Southern Adventist University

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ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND

HONORING THE CLASSES OF 1936, 1946, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1996

OCTOBER
26-29 2006



WHOLLY HIS: BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Come celebrate as we look back on 50 years of nursing at Southern, look forward to the new Wellness Center under construction, and look at other ways that Southern promotes a holistic lifestyle.

FEATURED EVENTS

- THU** • Alumni banquet
- FRI** • Seminars
• Young alumni supper and vespers
• Vespers with Fred Fuller, '76
- SAT** • Church services with Greg King, '81
• Reunions
• Musical program, award-winning recording artist Bill Young, '88
• Southern Shuffle 5K race and 1 mile fun run/walk
- SUN** • Antique and classic car show
• Nursing continuing education event
• Nursing 50-year celebration gala
- ALSO** • Career networking/mentoring fair
• Health screenings
• Quilt show

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COLUMNS



HEARTLAND
FILM FESTIVAL

2006 CRYSTAL HEART AWARD
DAVID GEORGE, ZACH GRAY
SECRET OF THE CAVE

Winter
2007

My Road

I can't say I coasted through academy. That would imply I put forth little effort and did well. I put forth little effort—and got what I deserved.

After daydreaming in class, dodging my boss's criticism at work, and spending my evenings in a study hall for students with poor grades, I was left with no time for school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

Despite this, I still believed I would be a successful, well-balanced adult. Reality slapped me in the face hours after my last exam my junior year. I was caught breaking one of the school's rules and asked to pack my bags and go home.

It was the worst night of my life—and the best thing that happened to me. That summer, after I'd had a chance to think about the changes I wanted to make, my family moved from Colorado to Collegedale. Realizing I had a chance to start over, I resolved to be the person I envisioned.

My senior year, I joined the newspaper staff, signed up for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and tried out for the drama club. My evenings were split between studying and exceeding expectations as a janitor on Southern's campus.

Weeks into the school year, I was given a significant raise. My grades began reflecting my ability, and my school involvement led to new friendships.

I was shocked when the guidance counselor suggested I apply for the National Honor Society. Had he even seen my transcript from Colorado? I went ahead and applied. National Honor Society inductions were during Senior Night. Having not received acceptance confirmation, I sat in the back of the auditorium.

My emotions were jumbled as the names of the inductees were read. Should I hope to hear my name or feel depressed that I still wasn't among the "successful"?

Then I heard it: "Lori Pettibone."

Jumping from my seat, I ran to the stage. My head-to-toe smile made it impossible for me to blend in with my nonchalant classmates. As my dad snapped a picture, I realized that I had become the person I wanted to be.

I get nostalgic thinking about my move to Collegedale. From the professor who walked across campus to let my dad know he appreciated my janitorial work in his building to the teacher who insisted I submit a story to the *Insight* writing contest, I was surrounded by encouraging people.

In this issue, you'll find stories of students who, like me, experienced God-led journeys to Southern. As you read these, think about how God has led you. I'd love to hear your story.



Being inducted into the National Honor Society in 1989 was evidence that Lori had completed her transformation from underachieving child to well-rounded adult.

Lori Pettibone



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COVER: Southern's feature-length film, *Secret of the Cove* received the prestigious Crystal Heart Award at the 2006 Heartland Film Festival. To learn more about the making of this movie, turn to page 12.
PHOTOGRAPHER: Nick Evenson

Called to Protect

I respect the conviction of those who choose not to bear arms. However, your assertion ["A Discussion on Adventists in the Military, Summer 2006] that this is the only manner in which an Adventist may serve God and country is an affront to those who have put their lives on the line.

Without people who are ready to use violence in defense of peace, we would not enjoy the freedoms and peace that we have in this country. As a former marine and current police officer, it is an honor to know the appreciation of those who thank me for defending them. I know how it feels to face death and pray that the Lord will protect me while I am protecting others.

Consider the logical implication of your article for law enforcement. If a person doesn't think weapons should be used, that person should not call a policeman when they are threatened. For those who have never faced death from violence, it's easy to hold strong black-and-white opinions about how a situation should have been handled.

I cannot quote as much scripture or doctrine as you, but it does not take a great theologian to see that throughout the Bible violence was allowed, if not sanctioned, by God. War is a result of sin, but to ignore it or ask someone else to "sin" for us is also a violation of our basic Christian values.

I must do what I feel the Lord has called me to do, and I ask you to respect my convictions.

Paul Myers, '01

Support Our Troops

I can see the concept of point and counter-point [in "A Discussion on Adventists in the Military," Summer 2006], but I felt both authors were very much under the belief that as an Adventist, the only acceptable method of soldiering is as a medic or chaplain. I believe if that is someone's choice that is fine; however, we have countless examples throughout the Bible of Israel and its kings doing battle and violence in the name of God and to protect their own freedom.

Donn Leatherman essentially said that the modern-day protectors and defenders of freedom have rejected Jesus' teachings. Where would we be if we had no one willing to fight for freedom, or should we have only heathens fight our wars?

I certainly hope that some Marine, sailor, soldier, or airman who is overseas fighting for

our freedom does not pick up this article and read it. A time of war, when we have people in harm's way, should be solely a time to support our service members, not to question their actions when they are doing something that most people are not willing to do.

Paul Maupin, attended

Proud of My Uniform

I am a Southern student who is in the National Guard and leaving for Iraq. During these two years [I've served], I have had the pleasure of serving with two other Adventists while working for the funeral honors detail in Chattanooga; I am also deploying with one.

I got the feeling that you were pushing [in "Serving God and Country," Summer 2006] people into being a 91W (medic) or a chaplain's assistant. I think you could have shown a little more support for soldiers who don't hold these jobs.

I also disagree with the statement about seeing soldiers in uniform on campus. Last school year I wore my uniform all the time while on campus.

The article brought out a lot of good information, and I hope other students read this article and make their own informed choices.

Chase Warren, current

Priceless Indeed

When I read your article, "A Southern Education—Priceless" [Spring 2006], it really touched my heart.

I still dream of being at Southern! All in all, my experience there caused me to be the person I am today: content, fulfilled, and spiritually equipped. I thank God for the happy and heart-breaking times at Southern.

Try it out. You won't be disappointed. It's worth every penny.

Lewanda Katrisha Smith, '05

InBox is a forum for reader feedback.

Questions, concerns, compliments, criticisms, and even discussions—all are welcome and encouraged. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. Please send InBox letters to: COLUMNS Editor, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315-0370 or email columns@southern.edu.

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Alumni Relations: Evonne Crook, '79

Send correspondence to:
COLUMNS Editor
Southern Adventist University
Post Office Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315-0370
or email columns@southern.edu

Send address changes to:
Alumni Office
Southern Adventist University
Post Office Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315-0370
or email alumni@southern.edu

Phone: 1.800.SOUTHERN
FAX: 423.236.1000
Email: marketing@southern.edu
Website: www.southern.edu

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That Certain Sound

by Gennevie Brown-Kibble, School of Music

Making decisions about repertoire has always been a tricky business for me. “So much music—so little time” is a gross understatement.

But how many pieces of music have that “certain sound”? Few, I suspect. What amazes me most about those that do have that certain sound is their ability to draw in people of all backgrounds.

Sound Bites

When Ted* entered my studio in his junior year for his first-ever choral audition, it was clear that he loved to sing. With little to no formal music experience, he had trouble sight reading music. Although rough around the edges, his baritone voice had a warm, velvety quality throughout its wide range.

His eagerness to sing, coupled with the fact that we were short on basses, led me to take a chance and place him in the select choir.

My repertoire plan for the year traced the evolution of musical styles beginning with the Renaissance era. One of our first pieces was a motet written by 16th-century composer Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. Like many songs from this era, the piece skillfully weaves four independent vocal lines, all the while heightening the words of Psalm 41:1-2.

During those first rehearsals, Ted’s devotion to singing waned noticeably as the ensemble struggled to achieve the tone color, tuning, balance, and blend that the challenging piece requires. As if focus on those elements weren’t enough for the initiate, we were studying the work using its original Latin text.

Miserably disappointed with the strange old music, Ted later admitted to me that at first he couldn’t imagine why I had chosen it.

Ted continued to droop his way through rehearsals until the day the parts were secure enough to sing the motet using mixed voice parts while standing in a wide circular formation. The text shone through the intertwining voices—vividly depicting a parched young deer straining to get a drink from the fountain of life.

From that day forward, Ted was transformed. The text and music had done their mysterious work. He sat up exuberantly during rehearsals and was anxious to get his ears on anything written by Palestrina.

Ted sang with the ensemble for two years. Following his graduation, he returned often to hear our concerts and to share his growing pains and musical conversion with new choir members.

High Notes

Finding good basses is relatively easy when compared to the vastly more elusive search for tenors. At this level, it means a young man brave enough to admit that 1. he is a singer and 2. he can sing high notes.

After an exhausting three days of auditions, the combined choirs prepared to sing for the first Sabbath of the school year. We sang basic anthems and responses from the balcony. Our opening piece featured the rich eight-part harmonies of 20th-century Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff.

The following day, a nervous-sounding freshman called me at home. He had heard the choirs sing during the church service and was particularly moved by the Rachmaninoff. Could he still audition?

I make a valiant attempt at nonchalance when it becomes apparent during the audition warm-up exercises that a tenor is in the room. This is especially difficult when the said tenor is a first tenor who sings in tune and possesses the kind of vocal quality that will enhance any ensemble. This was the voice I heard during Luke’s* audition. Although the ensembles were already set, I invited him to join the select choir. Unlike Ted, Luke had sung in choirs since grade school but decided to give it a break following some disappointing high school experiences.

Luke sang for four years and now regularly sends me examples of the kind of choral music that prompted him to call that Sunday.

Moving Sounds

So what is this “certain sound” to which I refer? My students’ responses have revealed that it is a sound inherent in great choral literature. It is what happens when the elements of text and music unite to create a message that is capable of provoking change. It demands the kind of attention that precedes positive action. The apostle Paul uses the opposite approach to describe this motivating force when he asks, “For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?” 1 Corinthians 14:8 (NKJV).

Sometimes I get weary in my search for choral music that will connect with students of this MP3 generation, who are bombarded with so many sounds.

When this weariness threatens to set in, I’m brought back to consciousness by recalling experiences of students like Ted and Luke that remind me of the power of that “certain sound” to move and to transform. ✧

*Names have been changed.



Gennevie Brown-Kibble leads her students in the creation and discovery of “that certain sound.”

Jackie James

A Friend for Life

Growing up in the low-income part of Miami, Jackie James could easily have slipped into the pattern of drug dealing, violent crime, and jail like some of his relatives. In his neighborhood, there wasn't a big emphasis on education. Visiting Southern's campus revealed a different world than what James was familiar with and a new lifestyle that appealed to him.

"Each time I came, I was more and more impressed that this is where I should be," James says.

In 1988, James left Miami to study theology at Southern. He graduated seven years later with a wealth of memories, friends, and connections. These lasting impressions brought James back to the campus as a recruiter.

"I want others to have the opportunity to experience the same life-defining environment that I did," says James.

With a big smile and a friendly hello, James genuinely befriends high school and Southern

students. He nearly always remembers names and circumstances, and his people-oriented personality welcomes students' love and trust.

"My favorite part of the job is just talking with students," says James.

More importantly, James helps them figure out what God's plan is for their lives. He encourages students to find and use their special gift-mix to become what God wants them to be.

"Helping people find out what they should be majoring in or doing with their lives is not just an academic thing," says James. "It's about God."

James' own gift-mix is put to good use both at Southern and the across the country. He plays the piano at church and the Chattanooga Mission, and every school year he uplifts students at several week-of-prayer programs at Adventist academies.

Besides serving God and helping students, James feels that the experiences and friends he has gained here have made a huge impact in his life.

"I wouldn't have all of that," he says, "if it wasn't for Southern."



Jessica Lytle-Smith

Strength to Overcome

RReturning to the United States after a Thanksgiving trip to England, Southern student Jessica Lytle was standing in the cus-

toms line when she saw her family waiting for her across the room.

"Everyone was there, except my sister Jenni," says Jessica. The news they shared was anything but welcoming. Jenni had been killed in a car accident five days before. Overwhelmed, Jessica collapsed on the airport floor.

Such a life-altering event completely changed Jessica's perspective. Thanksgiving break was only a few days long. How could she return to classes so soon?

During this tough time, Jessica was reminded why she decided to attend Southern. It was because of the excellent Christ-centered nursing program. "It's one of the reasons why communicating with my professors is so easy," says Jessica. "Even in the difficult nursing program, when you pray in class, it gives you hope that you can make it."

Jessica's professors postponed final exams and projects to give her time to grieve. "I talked to them about everything, and they took the time to listen and understand me." Jessica's peers were a constant support



Nathan Halverson

Talented Hands

It was a misunderstanding that brought Nat Halverson, '63, to Southern.

An elderly lady in his church told him, "Make sure you go to Madison College in Tennessee." When Nat saw an ad for Southern in the *Youth Instructor*, he noticed the college was in Tennessee and assumed it was the college his friend had mentioned.

"The Lord planted me where I needed to be," he says.

Nat's farm background made him a natural at Southern's dairy, but he quickly realized the insufficiency of his income.

"I told my boss, 'I've got to have more money; I'm eating up all I make,'" Nat says. His boss had noticed how quickly Nat worked with his hands and offered to recommend him for employment at the broom factory. After practicing diligently at a mountain of moldy leftover broom corn stalks, he learned to construct a proper broom. As the

mountain disappeared before Nat's swift hands, he soon graduated to making large warehouse brooms, rapidly distinguishing himself as the fastest broom winder in the factory's history.

"When [Southern's] President Kenneth Wright heard about me, I was told that he said, 'This guy makes more money than I do!'" Nat chuckles. "I was cocky in those days, and I joked it was because I worked harder!"

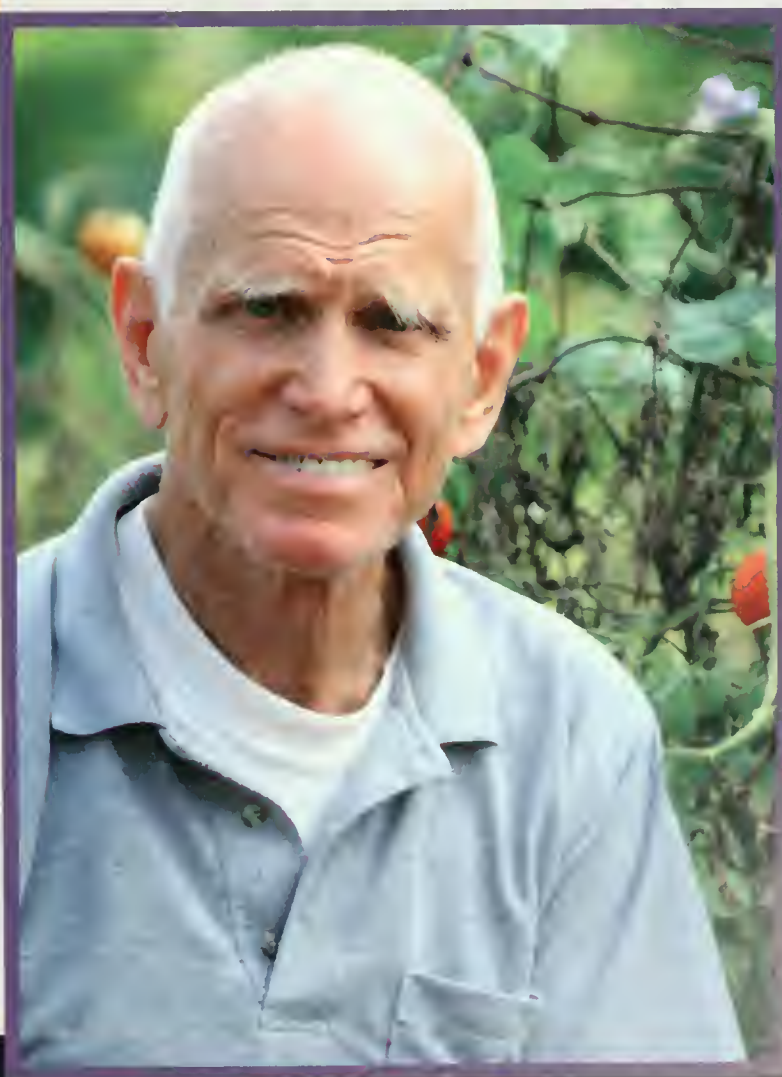
Nat married Margaret, '69, a pretty co-worker who'd caught his eye. Margaret majored in elementary education while Nat received his degree in secretarial science. Later they both found themselves teaching at the brand-new two-room Standifer Gap church school with 84 students between them. Margaret taught grades 1 through 4 and Nat grades 5 through 8.

"We were green as grass," Nat shakes his head. "I had 43 students. When the conference superintendent visited us, he exclaimed, 'Nat, what in the world are you two kids trying to do? You are the second-largest school in the conference!' We worked so hard that year!"

At 59, after a 27-year teaching career, Nat retired to lead a succession of Sabbath School

youth classes, give Bible studies, and go on mission trips, while growing most of his family's food. Today, his favorite hobby is memorizing a Bible verse every day.

"I can't always recall the text," Nat admits. "But I stand on His promise that He will bring to my memory what I've stored away when I need it."



as well. "My classmates helped me study for exams and offered inspiration by praying with me daily."

Jessica had planned to continue on to medical school, but around the time her sister died, she re-examined everything. "I didn't want to spend eight to 10 years in school," she says. "There's a lot more I want to do—missions, be with my family more, and have a family of my own one day."

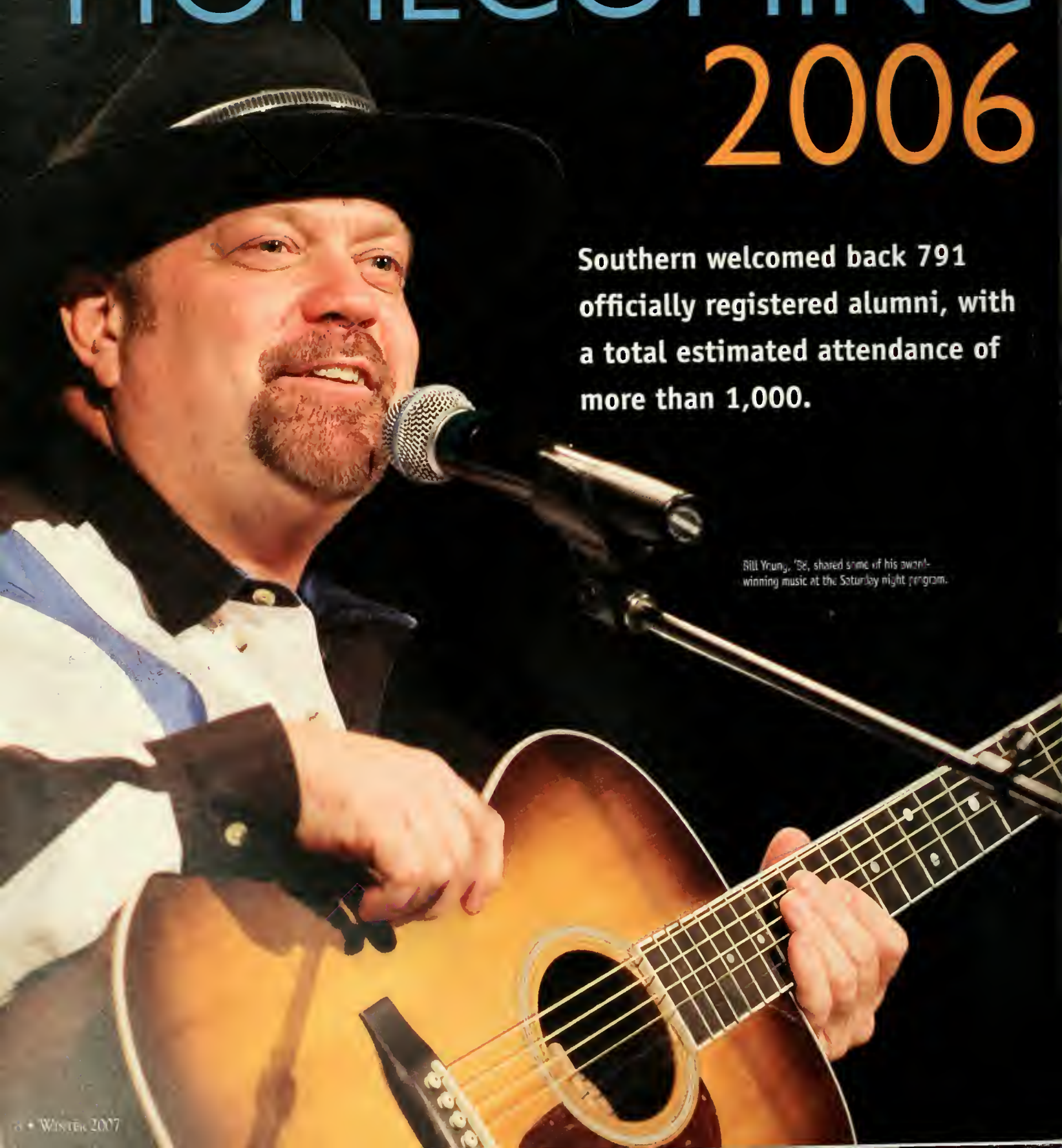
After graduating with her associate degree in nursing in 2003, Jessica married Nathan Smith in the spring of 2005 and is working toward her master's degree in Southern's accelerated nursing program. She plans to become a family nurse practitioner and take her faith into the field. "I know that my Christian education from Southern will shape the way that I take care of my future patients' health care needs," she says.

Along her journey to healing, Jessica has learned many lessons. One of those is the importance of keeping priorities in line. "It is so important to keep a relationship with God," she says. "You can make it through anything with God by your side."

ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2006

Southern welcomed back 791
officially registered alumni, with
a total estimated attendance of
more than 1,000.

Bill Young, '86, shared some of his award-winning music at the Saturday night program.





Marlene (Milburn) Colburn, '01, stops at the registration desk before heading to vespers.

Vespers

Friday night vespers offered a choice of traditional vespers or the option of joining current Southern students at a contemporary sacred concert. Singing in four different languages, Rudy Micelli brought Southern alumni and current students to a standing ovation at the young alumni/student vespers. Fred Fuller Jr., '76, spoke at the traditional vespers service.



The church atrium is abuzz as alumni and friends register, chat, and take pictures.



Rusty McKee, '87, takes the wheel of his Corvette at Sunday's third annual Antique and Classic Car Show.



R. Elaine (English) Myers, '66, performs a hand bell solo at the traditional vespers program.

Golden Anniversary Gala

Clad in formal attire, nearly 400 alumni and friends of Southern celebrated 50 years of nursing education at the School of Nursing's Golden Anniversary Gala. A true walk down memory lane, the gala featured a fun-filled look at nursing and nursing fashion over the last 50 years.



Forrest, '45, and Norma (Meyer) Fuller, attended, accept hors d'oeuvres from nursing student Amanda Durham dressed in a uniform from the '80s.

Alysa (Shepherd) Darmody, '01, Joey (Norwood) Tolbert, '01, and Rachel Komorowski, '02, present a message in song during the Sabbath afternoon sacred concert. Heather Thielen, '02, (not pictured) was their accompanist.





Becky (Swinson) Bolton, attended, is proud of her husband Bob, '67, who, along with Dean Kinsey, '56, received medals at the Southern Shuffle.

Little Allison and Autumn Hickam—pictured here with their parents, Richard, '00, and Darlene (Hallock), '94 & '97—seem quite impressed with Dean of Music, Scott Ball.



Horace Beckner Jr., attended, and John Durichek, '58, catch up during the So-Mi-Conian supper.



Aubrey Liles Jr., '52, reconnects with Ruben Lopez, '52.

This young man seems to be enjoying the Gentlemen's Picnic.



Despite the rain, about 85 men gather for some fireside fellowship at the Gentlemen's Picnic.



Ladies Luncheon participants applaud this year's Lady of the Year Award recipient, Lorabel (Peavey) Midkiff Hersch, '41 (not pictured).

The Art of Quick Quilts

New to this year's Homecoming Weekend was a quilt display. Made by alumni and friends, the quilts showcased the skill of the artists and revealed stories of family as well as regional history. One of the oldest quilts was made out of men's sock tops from local hosiery mills that were plentiful in this region in the early 20th century.



Jeanne (Denski) Norskov, '78, admires one of the quilts on display at the quilt show.



Richard Center, '66, introduces his wife, Alethea, to former classmate Daryl (Andersen) Chesney, '66, at their 40-year reunion.



Arlene (West) McFarland, '70, and husband, Thomas, '67, enjoy a lively conversation with a friend during potluck.



Lezlee (Caine) Walters, '81, can't quite believe it's already been 25 years as she catches up with classmates.

Southern Shuffle

Back by popular demand, the Southern Shuffle pitted alumni, students, and community members of all ages against each other in a 5k race around campus on Saturday night. For those who preferred a more leisurely pace, the Shuffle also included a one-mile fun run or a moonlit walk around campus.



Alumni race across campus Saturday night during the Southern Shuffle.



Former nursing professor, Frances (Hartwell) Robertson, '65, shares a tender moment with her mother, Thelma (Thomson) Hartwell, '37, at the Celebration of Nursing Gala.

Valorie (Johnson) Mixon, '86, and Harold Brown, '63, enjoy the food and fellowship surrounding them at Sabbath's potluck lunch.



Nursing students Danny Kelly, Rance Smith, and Marla Robberson Treyer participate in an emergency preparedness workshop. This event, which included students, alumni, and community members, was part of the School of Nursing's 50-year celebration.

telling the secret

by Katie Minner, '06



When students and faculty in Southern's School of Visual Art and Design packed their bags for a trip to Ireland, they knew long days lay before them. Filming a movie on a remote island wasn't easy, but it turned into an experience the cast and crew will never forget. Producing a feature-length film wasn't easy either, but then, receiving an invaluable education rarely is.

The Story

The Secret of the Cave, based on the children's story of the same name by "Uncle" Arthur Maxwell, is Southern's first feature-length film. The suspenseful tale, published in 1920 and set in Scotland, is that of a boy named Roy who travels to a Scottish town. Once he arrives, Roy finds that a mystery plagues the old fishing village, and he becomes determined to uncover who is behind the puzzling events. The film delves deeper into Roy's character and illustrates how, through his journey, Roy unearths truths about himself and about the people around him. The story is based on Matthew 25:40: "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (NIV).

Southern decided to produce *The Secret of the Cave* so film students could get real-life film experience. "Visual media, such as film, video, and the Internet, are all 21st century mediums of communication that need to be mastered by our church to effectively communicate the gospel," says Gordon Bietz, president. "*The Secret of the Cave* film is one attempt from Southern to break into this very secular field, not only by

producing quality films but more importantly, by developing young film professionals."

David George, the film's producer and a professor in the School of Visual Art and Design, says the book was a good fit for the university's goals of mission, message, and marketability when choosing a storyline. The already-popular story gave the team a built-in audience of families who are familiar with the book. According to Malcolm Maxwell, Arthur Maxwell's son and agent for Arthur S. Maxwell writings, the mystery has sold more than 142,000 copies worldwide in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Icelandic, Danish, and Swedish.

After being granted the rights to the story by the Arthur Maxwell estate, permission to proceed with the project was given by Southern's School of Visual Art and Design board.

A New Kind of Ministry

Producing *The Secret of the Cave* creates an opportunity to expose the general public to Christian film content. George says he hopes the film will engage and entertain the audience while containing a Christian message.

Zach Gray, director and professor in the School of Visual Art and Design, says the birthing process of a film is always a little more difficult than it first appears. Writing the script was one difficulty. "We asked ourselves, 'how do we make such a sincere story relevant to today's cynical audience?'" says Gray. To help the audience relate to the story, the script-writing team decided to change the setting from the 1920s to today and focus more on Roy's personal struggles to help the audience identify with Roy and how he deals with family problems.

No matter what the setting, the morals the story illustrates are timeless. "It's a classic story," says Leslie Foster, a senior film production and international studies major. "But Roy's adventure of discovering the golden rule is unique."

Like the apostle Paul, who wrote that it was his ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known (Romans 15:20), Leslie plans to do the same with his career in filmmaking.

"I think film viewers is an audience that Christians haven't tried hard enough to reach," he says. "Film is the new literature. Christians can complain about what is on television, or we can put our own message on television."

Gray believes film is a powerful instrument for witnessing. "If we are developing thinkers of tomorrow and we have a program that allows them to study this tool, we should let them learn," says Gray. "The best way to make a

Behind the Scenes: What it Takes to Make a Movie

- Spring 2004 *The Secret of the Cave* is chosen as the film project to pursue.
- Summer 2004 Negotiations begin with Maxwell estate for the film rights to *The Secret of the Cave*.
A scouting trip to Ireland and Scotland reveals potential shooting locations. The film's location is selected.
- Fall 2004 Work on screenplay begins in earnest.
- January 2005 Drafts of the screenplay are written.
- March 2005 Casting sessions held in Dublin, Ireland.
- April 2005 Southern officially gives green light to develop *The Secret of the Cave* into a film.
- May 2005 Final draft of the screenplay is polished. Production begins in Ireland.
- July 2005 Filming begins on cave set constructed in Ledford Hall.
Crew films at an Alabama cave.
- August 2005 Post-production begins.
- October 2005 Editing continues and work on behind-the-scenes documentary begins.
- November 2005 The search for a composer and a sound designer begins.
- January 2006 Sound designer and composer are selected for the project.
- February 2006 Score composition begins.
- March 2006 Visual effects work begins.
- April 2006 Score is completed.
- May 2006 Dialogue editing begins.
Music is approved.
- June 2006 Animation is completed.
Final credits are designed.
- October 2006 Film receives Crystal Heart Award at Heartland Film Festival.
- Spring 2007 Anticipated release.



Irish actress Niamh Finn played the part of Abbey.

Christian movie is to be a Christian. If you're reflecting Christ, He will be revealed in anything you do."

Adventure on the Emerald Isle

Although the story was originally set in Scotland, it was more practical for the crew to film in Ireland due to weather, monetary exchange rate, and the availability of a remote filming area. Two weeks of location scouting revealed that the small town of Doogort, on Achill Island, offered the greatest opportunities for the film crew. Located off the western coast of Ireland, the island is subject to Atlantic weather: cold, wind, and most inconvenient of all, rain. However, the island's charm still struck the film crew when they arrived in May 2005.

"I can't describe how gorgeous it was," says Melody George, '06, head editor in post-production. "My first thought was, 'I could live here.' At times, the scenery was so beautiful, it brought tears to my eyes."

Issues arose because of the seclusion of the island. When the crew arrived in Doogort, it discovered there was no land-line telephone in the village. The crew received permission to install the town's first telephone, which was the only means of communication until satellite Internet became available.

While traveling to Ireland was exciting and fun for students and faculty, it was also hard work. The crew worked long hours to stay on schedule and within the budget. "Everyone worked 12 to 16 hours a day, six days a week," says Mark Thomas, the School of Visual Art and Design manager of productions.

Nick Evenson, a senior film production



Kevin Novotny played the part of Roy.

major, assisted with lighting the sets in Ireland. "It was so much work but completely worth it," says Nick. "It was an amazing opportunity to be a part of a feature film while we're still students."

Though inclement weather often challenged the crew, they were able to wrap up filming in six weeks.

One rainy evening, the crew was scheduled to film an outdoor festival scene into the early morning with 200 extras from the town. "I didn't know how we would make it through the night," says Gray. "It would have been impossible to shoot in the rain. I found a quiet spot at the back of the set and pleaded with God to let the night be useful somehow."

Melody also remembers the night well. "A clear sky was important that night," says Melody. "It drizzled the whole time we were setting up, but we kept praying, and when we were ready to shoot, the rain cleared completely."

Sometimes the crew needed time to unwind before falling into bed after filming. David George remembers one evening sitting by a bonfire on the beach. "Our group sang praise songs for a couple of hours," he says. "It was a time shared with the actors that didn't have anything to do with working on the movie. Those of us from Southern were able to share a little piece of how we worship God with the others that we wouldn't have had the chance to otherwise."

After filming in Ireland, the cast and crew returned to the university to shoot scenes in Ledford Hall. There the crew created an indoor set of a cave before moving to a local cave to shoot more footage.

Experience for Life

Students working on the film had the opportunity to learn about their chosen fields in a hands-on teaching environment. Unlike previous films where the crew consisted only of students, in *The Secret of the Cave*, the film's different departments had professionals to lead the student crews. The 35 students who worked on the film were able to look to them for direction and advice. George says the professionals gave students freedom to learn through experience but still finish with a quality film.

Mick Frawley, a lighting technician who has worked on multiple Hollywood productions,

was in charge of the lighting department. "He was very skilled," says Nick. "He could usually anticipate what the director of photography needed before it was asked for."

Leslie was first-camera assistant during filming and assistant editor in post-production (the process of preparing the movie for completion after filming has concluded). He vividly remembers one of many learning experiences. "It was the first day of shooting, and I was in charge of building one of the cameras and taking care of it during the shoot," he says. "Everyone was setting up, but after they were finished and ready to go, they had to wait for me. It took me an hour-and-a-half to get it ready. Luckily, I got a lot faster at the process!"

In the film's post-production process, Melody was responsible for reviewing the raw footage, sorting out the best takes, and piecing the story together by finding the best performances and best cinematography for each scene. "I learned so much," she says. "I wouldn't trade my work on the film for anything."

Students also received the opportunity to work with experienced actors. Patrick Bergin, a well-known actor, starred in the film as Roy's father. The cast was made up of Irish actors, except for the character of Roy.

"The student crew was just as professional as any crew I have ever worked with," says Gareth O'Connor, an actor who portrayed Roy's friend Oscar in the film. "They seemed just as skilled as people who have been in the business for decades, and they were so much fun to work with."

The Secret's Out

The film is already impacting the industry. *The Secret of the Cave* was one of only five films out of more than 120 dramatic features to receive the Crystal Heart Award from the Heartland Film Festival. "Receiving an award from the Heartland Film Festival helps improve the film's chances of distribution," says George. "Getting this award is an endorsement from the festival. It says they think this film has value."

The award is given to independent films that achieve excellent quality and fit with the mission of the festival, which according to its website (www.heartlandfilmfestival.org) is "exploring the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life."

The students and faculty in the School of

Visual Art and Design realize that with every new communication medium comes a new way to spread the Word of God. This particular medium gives them the means to reach thousands of people who may not have been introduced to Christian films before.

"I am delighted that Southern is producing this movie," says Maxwell. "I pray that the story will advance the cause of God on earth."

As the film students at Southern graduate and begin their careers, that's just what the university hopes they will accomplish. ✧



Students assisted film professionals in producing *The Secret of the Cave*.

Rocky vs. Dickinson

by Kelli Gauthier, '06, and Lori Fletcher, '94

A dilapidated concrete and metal dog kennel sits in an unused area of the Animal Medical Professionals veterinary clinic in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

The chain-link doors are bent in many directions and fastened awkwardly with blue twine. The paint on the floor has been chipped away by many dogs that were anxious to leave. Most of that damage is thanks to Rocky, a boxer whom Brian Dickinson, '97, describes as the most aggressive dog in the world.

"He wanted blood," Dickinson says.

Dickinson met Rocky when he began working for David Miller's veterinary clinic his sophomore year at Collegedale Academy. Rocky greeted him with a lunge and a growl, and Dickinson knew he had two choices: quit or face the beast. Making his decision, Dickinson opened the door to the cage, and in doing so, opened the door to his future.

support from his adviser, who told him his grades weren't high enough for him to continue dreaming of vet school.

But if a slightly awkward 16-year-old could shove a food bowl only inches from Rocky's vicious mouth, certainly a mature college student could push on toward his goal of becoming a vet, even if he was pushing alone.

And so he did.

Dickinson found a new adviser, hunted down information on vet school admissions by himself, and set up his own tests. While his pre-med and pre-dental peers took practice tests sponsored by their respective clubs and interviewed for medical and dental school on campus, Dickinson found his own study material for the VCAT and traveled to Knoxville to arrange for a Sunday test date.

He also asked Dr. Miller to write a recommendation for him—which he did.

"Veterinary schools put a lot of weight on veterinary letters of reference," Dickinson says. "Since he was my only vet reference, I owe him a lot. Vet school is very competitive to get into; you need any break you can get."

His efforts paid off when he was accepted into the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine on the first try.

A Double Life

Dickinson soon learned that achieving his goal of getting into vet school was the easy part. Although he breezed through the first semester thanks to Southern's rigorous biology program, he soon discovered a new challenge. As a budding romance formed between him and Gina Haldeman, '97, he quickly learned what it was like to balance a long-distance relationship with completing his first year of vet school (affectionately referred to as the "weed-out" year).

Leaving Knoxville each Friday night, Dickinson would drive to Atlanta, where Haldeman was working as a teacher, then return to Knoxville on Sunday, trying to cram a whole weekend's worth of studying into a single evening.

The two were married that summer, but that wasn't the end of his school versus life stress. A year-and-a-half later, with Dickinson halfway through his third year of vet school, the couple welcomed their first son, Ethan.

Dickinson was leaving the house each day as early as 4 a.m. and coming home as late as 10 p.m. Meanwhile, his wife was working full time to support the growing family.

But if an inexperienced teenager could control an aggressive boxer while taking him out for walks, and if a maturing college student could take hold of his own destiny, certainly a young couple in love could find a way to make things work.

Rocky on vets:

“Grrrrrrrrrrrrrr!”

A Singular Dream

Three years later, Dickinson enrolled at Southern with the dream of going on to vet school—a dream that apparently wasn't shared by his peers. With no pre-vet club on campus, Dickinson was on his own, forging his way toward seeking acceptance at one of the few veterinary medical schools in the country—a task considered even more difficult than entering medical school.

If that wasn't enough of a challenge, Dickinson received little

Dickinson

And so they did.

Dickinson's father came and lived with the young family to help care for their son.

"It was a crazy situation," Dickinson says. "Life throws some serious punches. You just have to roll with 'em."

A Third Break

After finishing vet school, Dickinson and his family moved back to the Chattanooga area where he began working at a local practice. Then one day, he received a call from Dr. Miller.

"I'm offering you first dibs on the purchase of my clinic," he said, going on to explain that he wanted to sell the clinic to someone he knew and trusted, since he didn't have any children to pass it on to.

Dickinson was elated. "Dr. Miller gave me a break by hiring me when I was in high school with no experience," he recalls. "He helped me get into veterinary school, and now he was giving me my biggest break by offering his practice to me!"

There was only one problem. As a young vet just getting started in his career, Dickinson didn't have the funds to purchase a clinic.

But if a nervous high schooler could coach a blood-thirsty boxer back into his cage, and if an average student could beat the odds of getting into vet school, and if a young father could find a way to balance school and family, certainly a veterinary doctor could locate financial resources.

And so he did.

Dickinson invited the vet he worked for and a third doctor to join him as silent partners in the venture. The change of ownership went smoothly, and soon Dickinson was right back where his veterinary career started.

With his new practice only a short drive from Southern's campus, Dickinson is determined to serve as a mentor for students who dream of being a vet one day.

As he works, Dickinson frequently passes by the kennel that once held Rocky. The boxer is no longer there to growl at him, but

the determined spirit that surfaced in Dickinson when he first reached out to open the kennel door lives on. ✦

Dickinson on pets:

“They’re really four-legged babies who eat off the floor.”

Campus Cats

Until last winter, Southern had a population of stray cats. Food left out by well-intentioned students for these cats also attracted wild animals, such as skunks, to the campus. As administrators sought a caring solution for what was becoming a growing problem, Brian Dickinson offered his services.

Charging Southern only his own costs, Dickinson spayed, neutered, and vaccinated the campus cat population. The cats were then all adopted out to loving homes.





he apostle Paul talks about the church being like a body: “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others” (Romans 12:4-5, NIV).

Paul goes on to encourage members of the body of Christ to use their God-given gifts. Likewise, Southern encourages its students to use their talents and education to prepare for a lifetime of service.

Here is a look at how some of our students plan to do just this.

Name: Caleb Gillham

Major: Biology, Pre-Med

Year: Senior

How I plan to serve: Jesus set an example of medical service when He was on earth. He reached a tender hand to smooth the decaying hand of a leper. He held the limp hand of a sleeping little one and felt the grip strengthen as he infused power to her soul.

If love for God and man are the foundation of God's government, then shouldn't this be good enough for me? This is why I chose to start treading the path toward medical school. I wanted to have a tangible skill that would place me in positions to serve the body of Christ.

An incredible opportunity opened up last year for me to work in the Dominican Republic as first assistant to an orthopedic surgeon. He was an amazing Christ-filled young doctor who had just graduated from Loma Linda. This experience has galvanized my determination to become God's servant in the medical field, wherever He may lead.

My vision and passion is to help those brothers and sisters who don't know Jesus. Whether in Africa or Asia, Kenya or Kentucky, Hong Kong or Houston, I will be the Master's missionary.

Name: Sarah White

Major: Elementary Education

Year: Freshman

How I plan to serve: When I chose to major in elementary education with a minor in music, I wondered how I would use elementary education and music for God. With some majors, like theology and nursing, it is easy to understand how people can use those careers for God. What about the career I have chosen? How can God use me?

The answer is very clear to me now. With an elementary education major, I have children entrusted to my care every day. If I work in a private Christian school, I can verbally, as well as by example, teach children about God. If I'm in a public school environment, I can still have a great influence on children's lives by my actions.

With my music minor, I can not only teach children to develop their God-given talents but also to use their talents for the glory of God. My dream is to fulfill God's plan for my life in every way, not only in my career but in every aspect of my life.

Name: Ketty Bonilla

Major: Public Relations

Year: Senior

How I plan to serve: There are many ways that I can serve God with my chosen major. I see myself writing God-related articles, planning community or church events, or making newsletters for the church. I can manage the image of an Adventist institution, do fund raising, and even promote Christian artists or authors to help them spread the message through their God-given ministries.

Ultimately, I hope to be a missionary once again in a third-world country and help high school students improve their writing skills so they may become useful tools for God. Also, one thing that can be done in all careers is witness to non-Christian co-workers about God.

Name: Angela Ford

Major: History

Year: Senior

How I plan to serve: It happens without fail. If I tell someone I'm majoring in history,



Caleb



Sarah



Ketty

Building THE Body

they perplexedly inquire, "Well, that's great, but what are you going to do with it?"

For a while I didn't know what to say, but now I'm elated to offer an answer. Nowadays, a solid college degree serves as a foot in lots of doors, not solely those of your major. Although my major is history, I'm currently using my writing skills as an intern at a publishing house in downtown Chattanooga, where I have been offered a full-time job once I graduate. There I promote wellness by writing health articles for magazines. On the side, I plan on writing personal narratives that will inspire others to come to Christ.

Name: Kelechuku Anyalebechi

Major: Theology

Year: Senior

How I plan to serve: One of my mentors told me that college was never meant to go to—but to go *through*. College is designed to be a vehicle to help one achieve his or her dreams. In other words, God has given His children talents that are to be used in glorifying Him by improving the quality of life of the human race.

The gift that God has given me is a love for learning and teaching; therefore, the major I have chosen to pursue is a bachelor of arts degree in theology to prepare for full-time ministry. I love learning from God's word, and I

love teaching God's word. The required classes like Christian Theology, Advanced Preaching, Greek, and Hebrew have all better equipped me to accomplish my goals and dreams.

As a theology major, I could not imagine myself doing anything other than serving God by teaching His word and providing people with the opportunity to have an encounter with Jesus, thus improving the quality of life now and giving hope for a better life to come—for eternity.

Name: Jessica Marlier

Major: Physical Education, Health, and Wellness

Year: Sophomore

How I plan to serve: After joining the cross-country and track teams in seventh grade, I was given frequent opportunities to witness for God. People would wonder why I didn't show up on Saturday for a big race or why I would leave in the middle of a Friday afternoon track meet. It always brought me joy to tell people why I didn't run during Sabbath and what being a Seventh-day Adventist was all about. Witnessing for God made it worth missing a big race every once in a while.

My P.E. teachers and coaches have always had a big influence on my life. I admired them for how they always pushed me to work hard

and go for my goals in running and in life. I hope to continue being a witness for God when I have students of my own by showing the same acts of kindness and caring that my P.E. teachers and coaches showed me. I want to show young people that taking care of the bodies God gave them is important because you never know when He will call you to run a race for Him.

Name: Leslie Foster

Majors: Film Production and International Studies

Year: Senior

How I plan to serve: Soren Kierkegaard once said, "This age will die not as a result of some evil but from a lack of passion." He may have been speaking about the 19th century, but his words ring true today. We live in an increasingly jaded society. Few things inspire us anymore. We are transfixed by a materialism that seems to blind us to Christ's call.

As a film production major, I believe that Christian artists can begin to break through this stupor and reach out to a world that cannot afford our apathy. If, as a filmmaker, I can make you walk in the torn shoes of a homeless man, cry the tears of a rape victim, or feel the joy of someone meeting God for the very first time—if I can inspire you to act, I will have done my job. ✧

Angela



Kelechuku



Jessica



Leslie





When Aubrey Liles left his signature at Lynn Wood Hall, he didn't know he'd be the first of many Liles leaving their mark in the building, on campus, and around the world.

Sitting on a plank that would become a part of Lynn Wood Hall, young Aubrey Liles sketched his name onto the wood, leaving his mark at Southern Junior College. The year was 1924. Deciding to trade in his coursework for a career as a brick mason only a short time later, he may have thought this was the only mark he would leave at the Southern.

Perhaps that would have been the case if it hadn't been that in 1947 another Aubrey Liles began his studies at the same college, and in 1976 a third Aubrey Liles followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps. This year, the youngest Liles to attend Southern just returned from making her own mark in the mountains of Costa Rica, where she served as a student missionary.

"I think it's really neat that I am the fourth generation of my family to attend Southern," says sophomore elementary education major Jacque Liles. "It makes me really appreciate and love my school even more."

The campus was a very different place when Jacque's great-grandfather was at Southern. The only building that still remains from that era is the very one that the first Aubrey may have helped construct: Lynn Wood Hall.

Jacque hasn't been in that building much—only for a few Wednesday night worships—but she recalls the building for its significance to her family history.

Unaware that her grandfather's signature had been hidden in the building for years, she is quick to mention that this is where her grandmother and grandfather (Aubrey Jr.) got married.

"They've been happily married for more than 50 years now!" she boasts.

In the Shadow of the Signature

Aubrey Jr. jokes that his wife, Barbara, chased after him until she won him over. Truth is, before they were married, Aubrey Jr.—who had just returned from a summer of colporteur-ing in the tenement communities of Chickasaw County, Mississippi—used to sit on the steps of Lynn Wood Hall and watch her walk to and from class.

Despite rules that prevented them from socializing more than three times a week (during Tuesday lunches, Wednesday suppers, and Saturday night programs), Aubrey Jr. proposed to Barbara right there



What the Lileses Left

A signature, a license, and a legacy

by Lori Fletcher, '94



Aubrey Liles Jr. learned about his father's signature when he visited the Heritage Museum where the plank is now on display.

in Lynn Wood Hall only a few months after the two first met.

On August 14, 1949, Aubrey Jr. and Barbara were married in a ceremony at Lynn Wood Hall's chapel. After the wedding, Aubrey returned to school while Barbara supported him by working at the Tennessee Valley Authority in Chattanooga.

In 1952, Aubrey Jr. graduated with a degree in business administration. After two years of Army service, he began working for a former classmate who had an accounting firm for physicians and dentists in Atlanta, Georgia. Business was good, and within a few years, Aubrey started his own company doing similar work.

"I have some clients whom I started working with in 1954, and I still work for them today," says Aubrey. "I enjoy visiting and calling on them."

"He likes an excuse to eat," teases his son Aubrey, better known as Chip, who joined his father in what is now the family business.

A License to Reminisce

Chip hadn't always planned to follow in his father's footsteps. In fact, when Chip first came to Southern, he had no idea what career he would choose. He enrolled as an "undecided" student and began taking general classes. Then, for no reason other than that his dad was an accountant, he signed up for Principles of Accounting.

The professor that year was a young man

named Bill Richards. Though Richards carried impressive credentials, such as PhD and CPA, he invited the students on the first day of class to just call him Bill.

This down-to-earth nature impressed Chip, who, in part because of his positive experience with Richards, declared himself an accounting major. It was his junior year, and as he crammed four years' worth of accounting classes into two, Chip was left with little time for anything except studying, with the occasional game of basketball or tennis.

Christmas break provided a welcome relief from the hours of studying as well as a chance to visit his cousins in California. Not far from their home was a mock speedway, where the boys enjoyed racing against each other in Indy-style cars.

When Chip returned to Talge Hall, amidst the rest of his belongings he brought with him was a small souvenir from the carefree days that were now behind him—a pseudo driver's license bearing his name and photo, which had been used as his ticket to the racetrack.

Tossed in a drawer of his basement room, this license was all but forgotten for about 20 years.

Then one summer day in 2000, soon-to-be academy freshman Kimberly Magers was helping her father, Talge Hall Dean Dwight Magers, by doing some work in the residence hall. Getting Chip's old room ready for renovation, she discovered the license hidden in the back of an old dresser drawer.

"I couldn't believe that no one had found it until that point," recalls Kimberly, now a junior nursing major at Southern.

By this time, Chip had moved from his childhood home of Atlanta to Collegedale so that his daughters, Georgia and Jacque (both of whom would eventually choose to attend Southern), could benefit from the area's schools. Kimberly was one of Jacque's friends, so she immediately knew whom the license

belonged to and returned it to Chip.

"I almost didn't recognize my picture without gray hair!" Chip jokes.

Looking for a Legacy

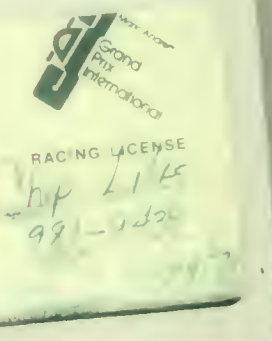
Meanwhile, Kimberly and Jacque transferred their friendship from A.W. Spalding Elementary School, where they had first met, to Collegedale Academy (CA), where they were now students. By their junior year, the two girls, along with other friends, made a decision that would impact them for a lifetime—to go on a spring break mission trip to Costa Rica.

"I think," Kimberly says, "most of us who went on that trip consider it one of the best of our lives."

After spending a week building a staff cabin at a summer camp in the lush green Central Valley, the CA students headed up to the mountain town of Monteverde for the weekend.

That Sabbath, the group visited a small one-room church with wooden floors and a metal roof. Jacque found the church to be warm, not because of the lack of air conditioning (the

open windows kept the air moving comfortably through the sanctuary) but because of the welcoming way the students were greeted by the church members. Streamers



Chip Liles, now a businessman in Chattanooga, left this license in Talge Hall for about 20 years.



Active and social, Jacque Liles (pictured here with kindergartner Jose) befriended Costa Ricans of all ages.

and balloons waived in the breeze in honor of the church's visitors, and friendships between the students and church members (especially the children) formed quickly.

A few years later, this room became Jacque's home church as she extended her experience at Southern to Costa Rica, where she began serving as a student missionary teacher.

It wasn't long after arriving at her new home last January that this active, social girl was thrown completely out of her comfort zone.

School wasn't in session, and the only other student missionary in town was a three-mile walk from where Jacque was staying. Much of her time was spent composing emails describing her loneliness and boredom and getting to know Hennie Vega, the 32-year-old Catholic woman who had taken her in.

"I'm ready to have a purpose and be used for something," Jacque wrote in one of her early emails home. Little did she know she was already being used by God as she befriended Hennie.

Mission Discovered

"I have cancer," Hennie told her one day, lifting her shirt to show a large incision across her stomach. A major operation she had undergone only months before had been the eighth in a long line of operations for her cervical cancer.

Jacqué didn't realize the significance of Hennie's revelation until the next day when Hennie came to Jacqué's room to talk some more. Jacqué had been sulking in her room, feeling sorry for herself thinking about how lonely and bored she was.

"I was at my lowest," Jacqué recalls about how she felt at that moment.

Jacqué and Hennie chatted for a while before Hennie got very serious.

"Marcus doesn't know about my cancer," Hennie told her. Hennie's husband, for reasons

not shared with Jacqué, had chosen not to live with his wife and children. Now he had no idea what his wife was battling alone.

As she talked about going to the hospital alone and just wishing Marcus could be there with her, Hennie broke down in tears.

"As I listened to her," Jacqué says, "I knew God was opening my eyes to this woman's suffering in order to ease my own, which was insignificant in comparison."

Jacqué's eyes were also opened to her own purpose as the two talked.

"I want to be your mom while you're here," Hennie told her. "I wanted you to live with me so I would have someone I could talk to."

Unknown Treasure

Throughout the rest of her year in Costa Rica, Jacqué found other small ways of serving those around her: cleaning Hennie's kitchen and taking her three children to church services, teaching English and Bible lessons, working with the church's youth and Pathfinder groups, dog-sitting for one neighbor, and helping another neighbor with multiple sclerosis close her blinds each night.

Before her year of mission service was over, Jacqué was asked what she thought she'd leave behind with those she had interacted with in Costa Rica. "Man, that's a hard question," she responded. Then with a sense of humor clearly inherited from her father, she added, "I won't be here when I leave, so how can I know what I left behind?"

It's true.

When the first Aubrey signed his name in pencil on a plank that would soon be hidden behind chapel walls, he probably never thought the signature would have significance to anyone. He never guessed his own son would one day walk past that signature hand-in-hand with his new bride. And even if he did let his imagi-

nation go wild, he probably never dreamed the plank bearing his signature would be discovered during renovations more than 60 years later and then be put on display in Southern's Heritage Museum.

When Chip tossed the license in a basement residence hall room drawer, he gave both the action and the item little thought. He didn't suspect that the license would sit in the same spot for a generation until his daughter's friend would discover it and return it to him 20 years later.

Jacqué cannot know what her legacy in Costa Rica will be, but she carries a hope that the small things she has done during her year of mission service will grow like seeds hidden in the hearts of those with whom she's taught and interacted.

"You're like a radio," a member of her youth group told her once. The group had been comparing each of its members to parts of a car. Jacqué was dubbed the radio because, as she was told, she has kept the group entertained.

As the laughter fades and the seeds begin to grow, perhaps the treasure that will be discovered is that of an unexplainable joy.

"I hope that others will have witnessed a joy in me that is not my own," Jacqué says, "a joy that comes from the Lord and one they would like to have."

Perhaps that is exactly what will be discovered during the world's biggest renovation project ever. Until that day, when Christ comes to excavate the earth, we will probably never know the full extent of what the Lilese left. ✨



Hugs from second grader Tracy were a comfort to Jacqué Liles during her year away from home.

Plays Well

If you examine the job descriptions for most of Southern's employees, you probably won't find "spend quality time with students" listed, but you will find many employees doing just that. For Southern's faculty and staff members, the day isn't over when they close their office doors. To them, spending time with students outside of class or the office is equivalent to a student's extra-curricular activity—it's a perk of the job.

David Houtchens— Skilled in Participation

As Campus Safety's fire systems manager, it's David Houtchens' sometimes-difficult job to teach students about campus rules. However, the active role he's taken in becoming familiar with students helps them know him as more than a one-dimensional campus safety officer.

"I try to develop friendships with students rather than just being that fire guy who tells people not to do stuff," says Houtchens. "When I'm in my enforcement role, I get a better response when students know who I am. It's as though I have students on my side because they know I'm on theirs."

In Houtchens' 4½ years at Southern, he has enrolled in three classes and been involved in the Writer's Club. "I love hearing what students write," he says. "They are creative, talented people. I like their feedback on my writing, and I really like surprising them with the idea that someone from Campus Safety likes their writing and writes too."

Houtchens also stays active by inviting students to play racquetball. One of those students is Josh Fraker, a senior outdoor education major and campus safety employee. Houtchens overheard Josh talking about the sport with a friend one day in the office, and they now play whenever both have time.

Josh says Houtchen's sportsmanlike behavior on the court makes the game enjoyable. But beyond that, it's Houtchen's attitude toward life that Josh sees more often—in and out of the office.

"I see David go the extra mile to talk with students when they don't understand an issue completely," says Josh. "He is truly focused on a mission of serving God and spreading His love."

Josh says he came to Southern to gain a faith-based education. What he didn't count on was his education outside of the classroom. "David Houtchens and the Campus Safety team are some of the best teachers I've had," he says, "and they're not even professors!"

Tony Trimm—Demonstrates a Friendly Attitude

Sometimes Neville "Tony" Trimm is mistaken for a student. His young face and ready smile makes this professor seem younger than he is, but don't let the exterior fool you. Trimm has earned his place on the faculty of Southern's Biology Department. After graduate school at Loma Linda, he received his doctorate in biology three years later, in 2004.

During the two years Trimm has been at Southern, students



With Others

have found his friendly demeanor to be a harbinger of what a good friend he can be. And it all began with one Sabbath lunch.

Having lived in a dorm, Trimm understands how important it is to get away from campus every now and then. "I told the students that I was happy for them to come over for Sabbath lunch, but there was one problem—I can't cook!" Mike Sacro, '05, and a group of friends decided they could overcome that small hurdle. "They came over to my house with groceries, pots and pans, and even music," says Trimm. "We had a lot of fun." In fact, the students had such a great time that they came over almost every weekend for an entire semester.

"I got close to him because he was able to relate to us really well," says Mike. "I wasn't the best student,

but Dr. Trimm helped me believe that I could handle everything he and other faculty members dished out. That's what really helped me get through school."

At Southern, Trimm has learned that education doesn't end when class does. "I've found that teaching is way more than being a professor," says Trimm. "Developing friendships and gaining the trust of students is what it's about for me."

Trimm realizes that along with the joy of student friendships comes the responsibility of maintaining respect as a professor to his new friends. "I have to be careful

that the students don't expect me to bend classroom rules for them," says Trimm. "Thankfully, my relationships with students haven't been damaged when I've had to put friendships aside in the classroom."

Mike has a word of advice for Trimm's future students. "New students need to beware," says Mike with a laugh. "He might sit in the seat next to you before class, just to see if you look around for the professor!"

Judy Winters— Excels in Understanding

If you open the door into Judy Winters' office, you might feel as though you've just walked into a photo album. Pictures of Winters' family and students are everywhere. The prominent theme is grinning students having a great time with their professor.

After teaching 18 years for the School of Nursing, it's clear this woman appreciates relationships. She even received the Commitment to Student Success award in 2005. "I view my teaching as a ministry," says Winters. "I'm here to teach classes, but I'm more concerned that students leave my class with a closer relationship with Christ."

Winters' ministry begins in the classroom but extends far beyond it. Brittney McClannahan, a senior nursing major, recalls taking Mental Health from Winters, a class that can sometimes overwhelm students with very personal topics. "We talked about suicide one day," says Brittney. "Judy told us, 'If something ever happens to you, and you feel like no one cares, here's my cell phone number. It doesn't matter what time it is, where you are in the world, if it's day or night, I want to be the person you call.'" When they heard this touching offer, Winters' students knew she was genuine.

"Judy is one of the sweetest, most sympathetic listeners I've ever met," observes Felicia Ford, '05.

"One day, I had worked with a suicidal teenage girl for my morning clinicals and was feeling a little wrung out. Judy came up to me afterward and asked about my experience, and I told her the girl's story and my reaction to it. When I looked up I saw her eyes were full of tears. She helped me sort out what had happened so I could learn something from the experience and not just feel sad."

At the end of every semester, Winters takes her nursing students out to eat as a farewell and a chance to talk about the students' plans.

"Going to eat with my students is definitely a bonding experience," says Winters. "We get to visit with each other, and it gives us a chance to say goodbye."

Winters' caring attitude is an essential part of her teaching. "It's important to me that my students know that I really care about them—that I love them," says Winters. "I hope that they'll see Christ through me." ✧



Judy Winters



Tony Trimm



THE ROAD TO SOUTHERN

edited by Natalia Lopez-Thismon, junior mass communications major

The road to Southern may be longer for some than for others. For the **716 students from Tennessee**, it may only be a matter of driving a couple hours or even minutes up the road. For the **1,618 students from other states**, the road to Southern implies leaving behind friends and family. And for the **117 international students** who fly thousands of miles away from home, putting up with customs officials along the way, the road to Southern is a little rougher and may even include a new language and culture. But regardless of the trip's length, most students agree that their journey to Southern was certainly a God-led experience.

Friendship Lane

by Emily Richardson, junior mass communications major

It was the first day of kindergarten. School had just let out, and little Laurel Dominisey, a Catholic from upstate New York, went to see what bus she needed to ride home. Another little girl, Natalie Almeter, a Seventh-day Adventist from the same area, noticed that they were both on the same bus.

"Do you want to be my friend?" Natalie asked. That was the beginning of their lifetime friendship.

Laurel became good friends with both Natalie and her sister, Mindy. She spent quite a bit of time in their home and even became close with the girls' parents. The Almeter family offered support and advice when Laurel's parents divorced and when she had boy problems. Many weekends from kindergarten through the end of high school, the Almeters took Laurel into their home. Although those weekends always included a Sabbath at church, the Almeters never pushed their religion onto Laurel.

During her senior year of high school, Laurel decided to do what many kids her age did: apply to college. She had narrowed her choices down to one school—Niagara University, a Catholic institution located near Niagara Falls in New York. Laurel was so certain of her initial decision that she sent in the registration fee. In return, she received a large scholarship for the fall 2005 semester.

But deep inside Laurel, something that she couldn't explain was driving her somewhere else.

"[Natalie and Mindy] convinced me to apply to Southern," Laurel says. "I knew that Southern was going to be way too expensive for me."

Laurel and the Almeters prayed about it for weeks.

"I basically told God that if He wanted me to attend Southern, He would have to make it cheaper than attending Niagara. In my own mind, I knew it was impossible."

Laurel decided that no matter what, if God made Southern financially possible, she would go. She would leave her friends and family to



Laurel Dominisey is delighted to be at Southern with her friend Natalie Almeter.

attend a different denominational college and start anew. The tension grew as she waited to hear from Southern.

Two days before her high school graduation ceremony, Laurel finally received her financial aid letter. After doing the math, she found out that Southern was going to be \$5,000 cheaper than Niagara University. God had made a way for Laurel to attend.

"I made my promise to God, so I kept it."

Laurel says that when she got to Southern, she felt at home. Southern offered her a different sensation, one she felt the second she walked on campus.

"Southern provides an atmosphere that encourages a spiritual life," she says. "That encouragement is something I would not have gotten at any [other] university. Southern is beautiful inside and out."

Laurel is now a sophomore studying non-profit administration and development.

"I chose this major because I want to make a difference," Laurel says.

When asked what denomination she is now, Laurel says with a smile on her face that she is Adventist.

"I haven't been baptized into the church yet," she adds "but my heart holds the truth. I thank God everyday for all He has done for me."

"I knew God had a bigger plan for Laurel," says Natalie, "and I'm just glad I had a chance to be a part of it!"

Heavenly Clues Byway

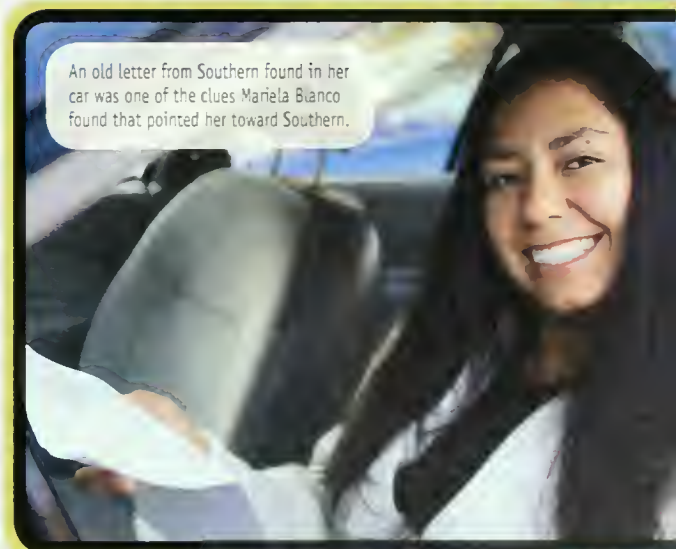
by Christina Zaiback, junior public relations major

Mariela Blanco's roots were deeply planted in her hometown of Herndon, Virginia. But after two years at a community college, Mariela decided it was time to experience true college life. Hesitant, she began her search for a new university.

"I didn't want to leave home because I was so close to my family," Mariela explains.

Mariela decided to pray about it and leave it up to God. That's when she started receiving clues about where she would go.

One day as Mariela was cleaning her room, she came across a letter Southern had sent her back in high school. The next day she found an undergraduate catalog that Southern had also mailed to her. The following day, Mariela found another letter from Southern in her car. She had never paid attention to anything the university sent before due to her desire to stay at home, but this time things were different.



An old letter from Southern found in her car was one of the clues Mariela Blanco found that pointed her toward Southern.

Unenthusiastically, Mariela decided to look into the possibility of attending Southern and proceeded to sign up for PreviewSouthern in November of 2005.

Mariela was on a mission to find faults with Southern, since doing so would give her a reason not to attend.

"I couldn't find anything wrong with Southern," Mariela says. "Everything seemed so right."

This is when God would speak the last word.

Mariela was attending an assembly for all prospective students. The university was giving out free cups, shirts, key chains, and three \$1,000 scholarships.

"Okay God, if this is the place you really want me to be, let me get this scholarship," she thought almost sarcastically.

That's when her name was called as the winner of the last \$1,000 scholarship.

"I was crying and laughing at the same time because I knew I really should not have tested God this way," Mariela explains.

Now, one year later, Mariela is happily living at Southern, where she is a junior social work major with \$1,000 less to worry about.

God led her to a church in Cleveland, Tennessee, that needed help with its youth ministry, and He has also provided Mariela with a job after graduation.

"As time goes by," she says. "I realize why God wanted me here."

Two Teachers' Trail

by Brad Betack, junior mass communications major

Halfway through a 6,200-mile journey that would take him from his native island of Guam to the campus of Southern Adventist University, Keith Borja got a hollow feeling in his stomach.

Sitting in a Japanese hotel room on a lay-over, Keith thought, "I am hundreds of miles away from a single soul who even knows I exist." He'd never been so lonely before in his

entire life.

Keith never wanted to leave his perfect tropical paradise. When he met his seventh-grade science teacher, his stance on the matter was reaffirmed.

The science teacher's proper and rigid attitude contrasted sharply with the island boy's relaxed manner.

"He would go on and on about this place in Tennessee where he went to college," Keith says. "I told myself I would never go there."

However, during Keith's senior year of high school, he met Josh Rhodes, a student missionary from Southern.

Josh was in charge of the computer lab, and Keith was yearbook editor, so they interacted often.

"I think in that one year, he probably helped me fix my computer at least 10 times. He showed me how to trouble-shoot and take [the computer] apart and put it together again," Keith says. "It was at this time that I realized what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to work with computers."

When Josh discovered Keith's newfound passion, he tried to persuade him to look into his

college: Southern Adventist University.

"I told him all about my school and its great computer science degree," Josh recalls. "I told him that I went to Southern and so should he."

Keith remembers how hard it was hearing these words.

"I didn't want to be stiff or proper," he says. "I wanted to do things my own way. I wanted to wear flip-flops and shorts."

He checked every other Adventist college, but none of their programs compared to Southern's. Finally, Keith decided that Southern was the best place for him to go if he wanted to learn about computers.

Today, Keith is a sophomore computer administration major.

Turns out, he says, that not everyone at Southern is rigid, stiff, and proper.

He's made some close friends at the university and even got a job at Information Systems.

"Southern Adventist University is full of so many different cultures and backgrounds," Keith says. "It's a school that truly does prepare you for your life ahead, and it does it in many different ways—some good and some bad, but I know that this school is for me."



Looking back, Keith Borja is glad he made the 6,200-mile journey to Southern.

Distress Avenue

by Shane Gallatin, senior mass communications major

Somewhere between Oregon and Tennessee, while sitting in the back of a U-Haul truck, Stacy Weston realized that she was at the point of no return.

She was not being held captive or anything like that. The back door of the U-Haul was kept open a crack using some bungee cords to let in air and light, and Stacy and her sister had walkie-talkies so they could let their folks know when they became hot or hungry.

There wasn't room for all four family members in the cab, so the sisters rode in the back of the truck, which was equally crowded. The Westons had filled the U-Haul with everything they owned and hitched their 1983 AMC Eagle station wagon behind it.

They didn't know exactly what they were going to do when they arrived at their destination, but they had faith that God would lead the way.

During her junior year at a public high school, Stacy began her road to Southern. At the time, Stacy's parents were having a hard time finding jobs, and to make matters worse, Stacy was giving into peer pressure and sneaking out of the house. Her parents felt like they were losing touch with her.

"[The public high school] wasn't a good place for me," she recalls. "I was hanging out with the wrong people, and I didn't have any kind of relationship with God."

Stacy's entire family was going through a period of emotional, financial, and spiritual distress.

In the midst of all the problems, Stacy went to visit her friend Travis in Nevada for some advice.

"I told him I didn't know

where I was going in my life," she says.

Travis told Stacy about Southern Adventist University, a school he had attended for a year. He really liked it, so he told her she should check it out.

Stacy had never heard about Southern, but what Travis said about it sounded good. Before long, Stacy told her parents about it.

Soon after Stacy expressed interest in Southern, her father had a dream that moving to Collegedale was the right thing to do. Stacy's parents decided that the family was in dire need of a change and that Southern was the place where that could happen.

The Longest Road

Yosau Ibrahim, accounting master's degree student
From Jakarta Barat-Tomang, Indonesia 10,298 miles

The Shortest Road

Kimberly Magers, junior nursing major
From a home attached to Southern's Talge Hall 0 miles

After a lot of research and even more prayer, the Westons packed everything from their one-room apartment (a converted one-car garage), into a U-Haul and headed east. Other than a brief conversation with the pastor at the McDonald Road Church, they had no connections. There was nothing waiting for them in Collegedale: no jobs, no home, only hope and faith.

"We didn't really know what we were going to do," she says. "We just had to trust God."

When they finally arrived, a member of the McDonald Road Church opened his home to the Weston family.

They stayed there for about two weeks before finding a home. Stacy's mom found a job, and the family was able to send Stacy to Collegedale Academy for her senior year.

Meanwhile, Stacy started working at the Village Market. The combination of her hard work plus financial aid allowed her to attend Southern. In 2005, Stacy graduated with an associate's degree in pre-dental hygiene.

"It turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to us," Stacy says. "My family has gotten closer, God worked out college for me, [and] I have a better relationship with Him. I've made some close friends, and I met my future husband here." ✨



When Stacy Weston didn't know where her life was going, a U-Haul truck brought her to Southern, where she found her future.

A man with a mustache, wearing a white helmet and a dark jacket, is sitting in a three-wheeled bicycle (trike). He is holding the handlebars and looking towards the camera. The trike has a large front wheel and two smaller rear wheels. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a paved area and some foliage.

A Campfire Tale

Michael Boyd's Story of Faith, Hope, and Camping with God

by Anh Pham, senior journalism major

Seated on a rock during a family campout in 1970, 10-year-old Michael Boyd froze as a squirrel crept toward the peanut in his outstretched hand. Suddenly, the squirrel jumped onto the rock, crawled onto Michael's lap, and took the peanut from his hand.

"My aunt took a photo to prove the experience happened," Michael says. The photo also captures the moment when Michael got hooked on camping.

It was a passion that became so much a part of who Michael is that he remembers praying,

"Lord, you can take anything from me, but leave my camping gear alone." There was a time some might have wondered if God had heard this prayer.

No Limits

Michael, '82, said that prayer shortly after becoming acquainted with a quadriplegic classmate at Southern.

"There's a lot I can take, but being paralyzed is not one of them," he told God.

Michael enjoyed his independence and freedom too much to be confined—it was one of the reasons he switched his studies at Southern from pre-medical to construction technology.

A construction degree allowed Michael to spend time working outdoors, as he had while growing up on the family farm. As a young adult, Michael spent some summer vacations enjoying seasonal employment building paths in the national forests of California, Oregon, and Washington. For Michael, his jobs in the western mountains seemed more like summer-long camping trips.

For the next 12 years of Michael's life, he enjoyed a rewarding career building houses, including a new home for his parents. When he

was not outdoors working, Michael was outdoors playing. Living in Collegedale in the early 1990s put him in close proximity to state parks



The moment Michael Boyd got hooked on camping is captured in this photo of him and a surprisingly friendly squirrel.

and rivers where he could go camping, mountain biking, canoeing, or rock climbing. In a way, that 10-year-old boy who had gotten his hands on a Pathfinder Field Guide never stopped fantasizing about living off the land and being self-reliant.

"I figured that if the economy ever got bad, I could always pitch a tent," he says. By July 1994, Michael didn't even have that option.

A Hard Dose

"I only recall hearing a snap," he says of the moment his life changed forever. The snap was the sickening sound of Michael's neck breaking. He had just fallen 18 feet to the ground after the ladder he'd been standing on for hours sank into the earth.

"The pain in my neck was excruciating," he says. "A hot, tingling sensation from my chest down into my lower extremities was an uncomfortable numb 'unfeeling'."

Despite the tragedy that had just happened, Michael remembers feeling calm.

"The only explanation I can give is that the Lord gives you strength when you need it, but not until you need it," he says.

At the hospital, doctors confirmed that he no longer had voluntary function from his mid-chest to his feet, and he was left with limited use of his arms and hands.

The thought of spending the rest of his life in a wheelchair requiring the help of others was a shock to Michael's independence. Michael, whose father is a physical therapist, accepted his parent's offer to live with them in the same house he had built for them in Cookeville, Tennessee.

"Before the accident I was proud of being able to take care of myself," he says. "Now, I needed help for everything."

Michael doesn't know why God allowed the accident to happen and prefers leaving the unanswered question a mystery.

"It's more fun looking at the positive side than thinking of 'if only' type of questions," he says. "[Besides], I won't know the full extent of why the accident was allowed until I get to heaven."

Most of Michael's time during the first few months after his accident was spent learning how to function with a spinal cord injury. He was able to move his head and neck and

extend his arms overhead. He had some finger motion in his right hand, but he did not have the ability to extend the fingers straight out or to grip anything.

During reflective moments while rehabilitating, Michael thought about his seasonal employment in national forests and how he would never again hike the miles of trails he helped build.

"I realized they would only remain a vivid memory," he says.

One day, Michael went into his family's shop building, where they had stored his construction tools and camping equipment.

He took a look at his now unused equipment, then laid his head down in his lap and began sobbing.

"Realizing that I would never pick up those tools the same way or drive another tent stake into the ground was a hard dose of reality," he says.

He decided to sell his equipment at a garage sale.

"It was a little hard," he says, "watching people purchase and drive away with the camping gear I had used for years."

A New Creation

With his old life behind him, Michael used his newfound time serving his church, working as a youth leader, Bible worker, deacon, and elder.

"Before my accident, I was extremely busy making a living and didn't always take time to help others," he says. "Now I'm more efficient for the Lord."

However, Michael couldn't escape feeling confined to his wheelchair. He desired moving with greater freedom so he could share God with others.

Frustrated with his limits and occasionally overwhelmed with anxiety, Michael often asked God for more independence.



Using hand grips he designed himself, Michael Boyd is able to enjoy kayaking again.



Friends and alumni from Little Creek Academy helped Michael Boyd get back on the bike path with this handcycle.

Finally in 2000, Michael amended his prayer and asked God's help in accepting his limitations. Michael soon felt at peace.

Days later at his academy homecoming at Little Creek Academy in Knoxville, Tennessee, friends surprised him after Sabbath school with an opportunity to receive his choice of a handcycle (a hand-powered version of a bicycle).

Touched by their generosity, Michael thanked them for their gift. But before he could return to his seat, he was stopped by friends who revealed that waiting outside was another gift, a brand-new Dodge Grand Caravan customized for his specific needs. Tears of joys fell from Michael's smiling face as he watched the minivan's door open and a ramp open out.

"I asked God to give me a break or give me peace—and He gave me both," he says.

An Old Love

Michael enjoyed his stronger spiritual life, but he still missed his days as an outdoorsman. Sometimes his church would have campouts, but he always felt shorted when he needed to leave before the evening campfires were lit.

Then one day, about 10 years after his accident, his friend Susan Windover surprised him.

"We are going to get you camping again," she said, telling him that she, along with his

brother, Darron, and Darron's wife, Ruth, would be happy to help Michael's dream of an overnight camping trip become a reality.

"That's all the encouragement I needed," he says. Michael started collecting equipment again, with his first purchase being a used wheelchair-accessible tent from eBay. In the following six or seven months, he collected handicapped-friendly camping gear in anticipation of their summer camping trip.

During their campout, his brother and Susan helped Michael kayak again on the lake. That night, Michael listened to the same chorus of frogs and insects he had heard on so many camping trips before his accident.

"I was too excited about the thrill of camping again to sleep," he says.

Since Michael's return to camping, he has enjoyed several other campouts, even planning his church's camping and biking trip in Virginia last summer.

"When the accident happened, I thought my camping days were over," he says. "But God never took camping away. I just didn't have the vision of finding a support crew willing to make the camping experience happen for me."

Michael doesn't know what character-building challenges await him in the future, but whatever they are, he wants to willingly let the Lord mold him.

"Just because something terrible happens to you, your life doesn't have to end," he says. "I feel that God is an artist, and He's shaping me into something. I don't know what, but I know He's good at it." ✦

How Lifesaving Saved His Spirit

When Michael Boyd took a class at Southern on how to save lives, he didn't know the life he would save could be his own.

One of the toughest courses Michael took at Southern was the Advanced Lifesaving and Water Safety Instructor class taught by Bud Moon. The tremendous physical exertion expected of the students in the classes prepared Michael in part for the mental and physical confidence he would need years later while rehabilitating from his accident. Moon's faith and regular Bible reading also impacted Michael.

"It was comforting to me to know that this professor who stood before us was fueled by the spiritual nourishment he gained in the quiet," he says.

The relationships gained during college also proved beneficial for Michael.

During and since his rehabilitation, Michael cites many of his friends from Southern as being a tremendous source of strength and encouragement. To this day Michael still receives visits, phone calls, advice, and Christmas cards from them. Michael also appreciates the faculty at Southern who prayed specifically for each student they instructed.

"I believe," he says, "that I am continuing to be carried by the momentum of those prayers prayed so many years ago."

A Prescription for Celebration

by Tamara Michalenko Terry, '91

In the last 50 years since Southern began offering a nursing degree, nearly 4,000 nurses have graduated from the program.

During Homecoming Weekend, students, faculty, alumni, and distinguished guests celebrated the School of Nursing's 50th anniversary with a Golden Anniversary Gala at the Chattanooga. There were many reasons to celebrate.

Celebrating Student Success

For the past two years, 100 percent of Southern's nursing students have passed the required National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) on the first try—and for 10 years before that, the pass rate was consistently 90 percent or higher.

There are many reasons for this success, ranging from the program's ability to attract motivated students to the professors' dedication to guide students toward achievement. Not to be overlooked, however, is the attention to detail given to how students are trained. One such detail is the way routine tests are given—on computers as they are for licensure exams.

"I think this is one of the reasons our students do so well on their licensing exams," associate professor Judy Winters notes. "Since the licensing exam is also computerized, [having already taken tests in this format] eliminates the fear of suddenly having to recall the material in a different format."

Students take the NCLEX-RN exam after receiving an associate degree, which typically takes about two years. They are then able to continue toward a bachelor's or even a master's degree while working in a professional capacity.

Celebrating a Commitment to Missions

Continuing a tradition that began in 1971 with Southern's first mission trip to Nicaragua, nursing students continue to use spring break as a time to participate in mission service. Last year, around 40 participants provided health care to people in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic during spring break.

The spring break volunteers provide assessment and treatment of a large variety of conditions including infections, parasites, and respiratory and skin diseases.

In addition to treating illnesses, the students bring with them the tools for preventive health. Pregnant women are given prenatal examinations and educated about prenatal and mother-infant issues; students present health and hygiene lectures and provide one-to-one patient teaching; and vitamins, coloring books, crayons, and toiletries are given freely.

"It is very gratifying to see students catch a vision for service in a developing nation," says Barbara James, dean of the School of Nursing, "and to skillfully and compassionately minister to those in need."

Celebrating Continued Growth

As Southern's largest program, nursing has outgrown its building. Soon, the university will break ground for a new larger nursing building. With the expansion, School of Nursing faculty and staff hope to shorten the

current waiting list that is in place. Even as the program grows, however, acceptance into the School of Nursing will be limited to maintain the low student/teacher ratio—a reason for the School of Nursing's success.

"As the baby boomers are aging, more health care is required," says James. "More than a million nurses will be needed by 2012." The school plans to increase its full-time professors to train additional nursing students that this need will bring.

In addition, with a national recommendation for nurse practitioner education to move to the doctoral level by 2015, nursing could become

be the first doctoral program on campus, should the university choose to move in this direction.

Celebrating Modern Technology

Another reason for the School of Nursing's success is the opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience with the school's two SimMan mannequins, which can be programmed for realistic patient-care scenarios. Unlike traditional mannequins, the SimMan can be given injections or IVs and can be treated as a real patient. The computerized mannequins then produce reports that show if anything was given incorrectly.

"They are wonderful for giving the students hands-on experience before they treat patients in real life," says James.

Southern's School of Visual Art and Design created 10 educational films about how to use the SimMan for the company that created these mannequins. After filming was completed, the mannequins were given to the School of Nursing. Computerized mannequins are certainly a far cry from the materials available to Southern's first 11 nursing majors.

"We have many to thank for making this program what it is today," James says, reflecting on the success of the program. "Because of this program, many nurses will care for people all over the world." ✧



Nursing students can practice their skills on programmable mannequins that simulate almost any patient scenario and respond to the students' treatment.

The University's Wellness Cycling Team is on a Roll

The Wellness Cycling Team is peddling its way to victory. During the summer, the team rode in the Tour de Cure and raised more than \$4,000 for diabetes prevention. In October, members of the team participated in the Sunbelt Cohutta Springs Triathlon. The team includes faculty and staff members and students from the cycling class.

The Cycling Team has regular Sunday outings for people of all levels and practices carbohydrate depletion to train for races. By depleting their bodies of carbs then stocking up on simple carbs a few days before the race, the riders are able to boost their energy levels.

The team is growing steadily with more than 40 faculty and staff members and 20 students.



The Southern Wellness Cycling Team prepares to raise money for diabetes prevention by biking at the Tour de Cure.

Students Preach with Mark Finley

Last summer, student evangelists spread the good news in churches and meeting halls in the tri-state area in conjunction with Evangelist Mark Finley.

"The series really changed my view of ministry," says Matt Smith, a senior theology major who preached at Owenby Chapel in Ider, Alabama. "I now know for sure that I can succeed with Jesus in control. But the thing that impacted me most is [realizing] that working for God is the best job in the world. This has been one of the greatest experiences in my life!"

For the theology majors who participated, the evangelistic series was a field school of evangelism, combining practical experience in speaking with listening to Finley at the Revelation Seminars in downtown Chattanooga and

attending classes taught by Finley; Professor Doug Jacobs; and Ron Clouzet, School of Religion dean.

"The students were very encouraged," Clouzet says. "They worked very hard on their sermons, their visitation, and their preaching. They certainly prayed a lot! And people made decisions [for Christ]."

This summer, Southern's School of Religion will be conducting evangelism field schools in Mobile, Alabama, and in India.



Theology major Sean Reed preached in conjunction with Mark Finley, although not as part of the field school of evangelism. Reed graduated in December and is going into full-time evangelism.

Fulbright Scholarship Awarded

In what is becoming an annual occurrence in the School of Music, a third graduate in as many years received the prestigious Fulbright grant.

Kristopher Schwinn, a 2005 graduate, received the government grant that is annually given to more than 1,200 select students from all fields of study nationwide.

The Fulbright program is designed for the promotion of international goodwill through the exchange of students in the fields of edu-

cation, culture, and science. Each year, the program's grants provide opportunity for overseas study.

Kristopher is studying baroque improvisation and Romantic literature while living outside of Groningen in northeastern Holland.

"I had heard from a number of independent sources—professional musicians whose opinions I respected—that Southern's orchestra was the only one worth playing in if you wanted to do some serious music making," says Kristopher.

"The organs at Southern were invaluable in training me as a musician and for preparation to study on the tracker organs of Europe."

The previous two Fulbright recipients were Tim Hinck in 2004 and Devon Howard in 2005.

All three recipients were organ performance majors who had studied under organ professor Judy Glass.

"The only reason I was ever able to get this scholarship," says Devon, "is because I came here to Southern and studied with Judy Glass."

Natural Climbing Wall Opens on Campus

A new natural rock-climbing wall opened at Southern last semester. The wall, located at the campus's Student Park, features 100 horizontal feet and more than 50 vertical feet of climbing area.

The wall was excavated from an old stone quarry in Student Park. Over the years, the quarry, and the area around it, fell into disrepair. Now with the area cleaned up, Southern is able to offer rock climbing classes without students having to travel off campus.

"Students have climbed there for a long time," says Michael Hills, outdoor education professor. "Now we've made easier access to it, creating another avenue for students to have outdoor experiences."

Donors Gordon and Gerrie Chipman suggested the name "Goliath Wall" in memory of Gerrie's deceased son, David, symbolizing the opportunity for students to conquer the wall much as the biblical David conquered Goliath.

In front of the Goliath Wall, an outdoor amphitheater is being constructed where the entire student body can gather for outdoor meetings and concerts.



Michael Harley conquers the Goliath Wall.

Southern's Reputation Continues to Flourish

Southern is a "best college in the Southeast," according to *The Princeton Review* and is also ranked as one of the "Best Comprehensive Colleges—Bachelor's" in the South inside the 2007 America's Best Colleges edition of *U.S. News & World Report*.

This is Southern's third year to be recognized as a best college by *The Princeton Review*, and sixth year as a *U.S. News* "top school."

Also, as in past years, the university saw an increase in enrollment from 2,522 in fall 2005 to 2,593 in fall 2006.

Upcoming Events

Winter 2007 Session begins
New Student Orientation
Parents Weekend
PreviewSouthern 104
Midterm Exams
Spring Break
PreviewSouthern 105
Online Fall Registration

January 8
January 9
February 16-18
February 19
February 29-March 1
March 2-11
March 15
March 26-30

Acrofest Participants Practice in New Gymnastics Facility

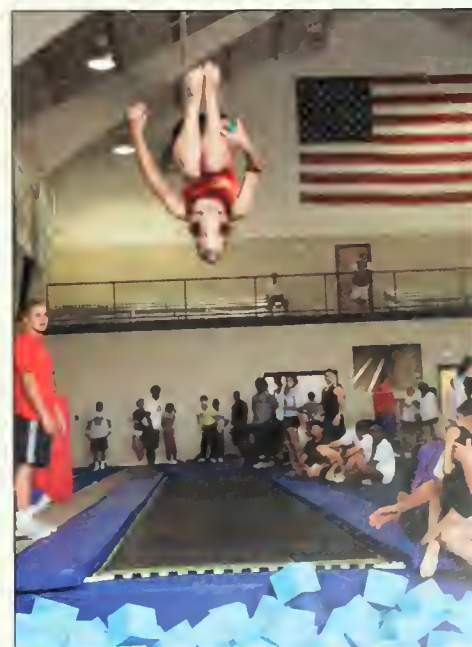
From a gymnast hanging from the rafters of the P.E. Center to acrobats flying through the air with the greatest of ease, Acrofest 2006 showcased the talents of 34 gymnastics teams from three countries. In November, Southern was the proud host of Acrofest. With the use of Southern's new gymnastics facility (built during the Phase 1 construction of the Wellness Center), participants were able to practice using the latest technology in acrobatic sports.

"Acrofest is a gymnastics clinic for Adventist schools that have gymnastics programs," says Richard Schwartz, Physical Education, Health, and Wellness professor and Gym-Master's coach.

Among the clinicians who worked with students were national champions in sports acrobatics and a performer with Cirque de Soleil in Las Vegas.

"Acrofest is a beautiful experience," Yinelly Nieves Ocaña, a gymnast from Puerto Rico, said through a translator. The 12-year veteran of Acrofest and member of the Akrobatiks team enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends and perform in a noncompetitive environment of support.

After two days of training, each of the teams performed a routine for the eager audience at the Acrofest show on Saturday night.



The foam pit in the new gymnastics facility gave Acrofest participants the opportunity to practice difficult stunts without the fear of injury.

Southern Recognized as a Technology Innovator

Southern received national recognition for its use of interactive gaming as a learning tool in *Campus Technology* magazine's August 2006 issue. The university was selected as one of 16 institutions from nearly 500 entries to be listed as a *Campus Technology* 2006 Innovator.

Under the direction of Dan Lim, dean of the Office of Academic Technology, several classes at Southern have begun using interactive gaming as a way to help students of various learning styles learn and retain important information.

This same gaming concept that has been applied to Southern's traditional classes is also being applied to online classes being offered through the university's new program, Southern Adventist University Online (virtualcampus.southern.edu).



Students use advanced educational technology both in a traditional classroom setting and in the virtual classroom.

"All online courses have learning games and/or simulations," says Lim. "These games help engage distance students and assist in the self-learning process."

The article about Southern can be viewed by searching *Campus Technology* magazine's archive at campustechnology.com.

Nursing Students Organize Benefit Walk

A student-organized breast cancer benefit walk raised more than \$4,000 for the Mary Ellen Locher Breast Center at Memorial Hospital on Sunday, November 19, at Collegedale's Wolftever Creek Greenway.

The benefit, known as PACE (Personal Ac-

tion for Cancer Elimination), was a three-mile walk created by eight nursing students in their final semester of Southern's nursing program.

The benefit is the first of what organizers hope will become an annual event.

"Breast cancer is the number one cancer

diagnosis in Chattanooga," says Heidi Knecht, senior nursing major and one of the event organizers. "Being diagnosed with breast cancer is the beginning of a long, difficult journey for the individual. We are excited to be able to help raise funds."

Grads Animating "Cool Stuff"

Four Southern animation graduates from the class of 2005 were able to skip the often-mandatory entry-level job and get straight to the good stuff.

Emil Biduic, Michael Hutchinson, Kevin Jackson, and Matt Schiller were hired by Pendulum, an animation studio in San Diego, soon after they graduated.

Pendulum Studios has worked on animation for AT&T, Kellogg's, and the television series *Smallville*, among other projects.

Most graduates are hired as interns to shadow professional animators and work on test animation before they are assigned to a client's work. By working for a small studio like Pendulum, these Southern alums were given the opportunity to begin working for clients right away.

"We get a hand in every shot that comes through the studio," says Kevin. "A lot of animators might complain that their work is unfulfilling, and most cool jobs require a few years of experience. I feel like we somehow cheated the system and got right into the cool stuff."

The work these grads are doing at Pendulum isn't just for professional achievement, either. "One of the best parts of this job is that some of my co-workers are very interested in Advent-

ism," Matt says. "It is awesome to be able to explain why we believe what we do, and it pushes me further in my own spiritual journey."

Michael's experience with Pendulum Studios helped him move on quickly to an even more impressive job, working with DreamWorks Animation in Glendale, California.



Kevin Jackson brings animated figures to life while working at Pendulum Studios.

Southern Receives a Record-setting Pledge

Southern received a record-setting challenge pledge for \$1 million from Life Care Centers of America toward the \$9.5 million Campaign for Health and Healing.

The Campaign was launched to raise money for the addition of the Wellness Center and a new nursing building.

"We thank Life Care Centers of America and its founder, Forrest Preston, for providing

our students with more opportunities to live well and to promote healthy lifestyle changes in others," says Gordon Bietz, university president.

The pledge, challenging Southern to raise an additional \$500,000, is the largest of its kind to Southern. Phase 1 of the Wellness Center was completed this winter. The second phase will commence this year, as will construction of the Center for Nursing Education.

What will you find?

"...those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness" (Proverbs 14:22, NIV). No words could better describe the rewards of giving to Southern through a gift annuity.



Hugo and Muriel Christiansen set up a gift annuity with Southern seven years ago.

Find faithfulness...

A gift annuity is a charitable gift you make to Southern. In addition to receiving a tax deduction this year, you'll continue to receive faithful payments (a percentage of your gift), providing you with a guaranteed income for life. After you pass away, the remainder of this gift is used to help provide a quality education for students attending Southern.

Find love...

When you give to Southern, you'll always have the heartwarming knowledge that you helped impact future generations. With a gift annuity, you also have the option of making sure a loved one is taken care of by designating him or her as the recipient of lifelong payments.

Begin your search.

Explore for yourself what your gift annuity would look like by calling 800.768.8437 or going online to plannedgiving.southern.edu (click on "Create Your Plan" then "Gift Annuity.")



Letters

by Melanie Eddlemon, senior public relations major

The harsh South American sun beat down as if mocking my choice to travel the shadeless path leading to the airstrip. After all, my mail would be delivered to me whether I waded through sticky heat or waited patiently at the school where I taught. Two months, painstakingly chronicled onto 14 pieces of paper, had passed since leaving the conveniences of email and telephones.

My eyes searched every inch of the horizon until a shapeless speck emerged over the green canopy surrounding me. The propeller's hum flooded the valley, rustling trees in every direction. Its size grew with the crescendo of its music, signifying the coming of lost treasures—letters from home. The longer I stood on the airstrip, the more dissatisfied I became with holding my own handwriting, stuffed into a dingy envelope affixed with a green and yellow Guyanese flag at the top right corner. While my blue-winged friend still hovered in the sky, I began to imagine the tales from Europe my twin sister might report.

Days were counted as I waited for crisp white envelopes adorned with American flags or European emblems. I savored each scribble, punctuation mark, cartoon, and misspelled word that had traveled over oceans to reach me. When I came to *Love, Serena*, I'd turn the page and start back at *Dear Melanie*.

History to the rest of the world was news to me, as I was the last one to find out that my twin sister had moved to Prague and that my parents had bought a new house.

Empty Arms

There were weeks when letters didn't come at all. My expectant hands would sort through a stack of mail, only to discover that none of the envelopes bore my name. I'd retrace my steps under the harsh reality that I'd be counting 14 more days before hearing the plane's hum again. These were the disappointing days of Guyana.

I had heard stories of what Guyana would be like: howling monkeys, crumbling cliffs, roaring rain, tippy canoes, tangled vines and twisted trees, ministry opportunities, Bible studies, native students, village families. Those were the parts I'd envisioned and expected; those were pictures people gave me.

But no one told me about the thousands of words I'd write in a feeble attempt to document my feelings and experiences for those I loved or the

dozens of pages that would travel from Europe to South America in an effort to tie lives together with ink and paper. I was gripped with helplessness when I could not share my life with the people I loved the most.

Guyana taught me what it's like to really miss someone. I learned about the war that distance wages against relationships.

"That's How Much I Miss You"

After two months without one word from my twin sister, I felt the jungle had swallowed me and my connection with her was lost. Walking back to my room empty-handed, I melted into my bed in silence, stared at the ceiling, and asked, "Where is she?"

My throat was tight and my mind busy conjuring up every possible reason for the lack of correspondence. And while I was missing her letters, I knew they were just a bandage for what I really wanted, her presence.

In that restless silence, one thought called all the worry and angst in my mind to hush. It was so direct and present that I had to sit up in my bed to follow it. The words were strong and close: *that's how much I miss you*. I could tell God was near because a peace suddenly blanketed me. "That's how much I miss you," He whispered again. The whisper filled me with reassurance that the jungle had not swallowed me. He knew exactly where I was and exactly how I felt, because He, too, has experienced separation. He, too, has experienced broken communication with those He loves.

In my frustration over the inadequacies of pen ink, Christ spoke to me about the distance He feels from me. What I felt during my 11 months in Guyana, God has felt for all Earth's history. His hands are more anxious than mine to perma-

nently close the gap that time and space wedge into our relationship.

I wrote dozens of letters to my family that year, and God has written thousands of pages for me, each one a record of His love and character. Every time I savor and reread them, I understand the depth of His words, "That's how much I miss you, Melanie." ✧



Melanie Eddlemon stayed connected with loved ones through letters while serving as a student missionary in Guyana.

GRAYSVILLE, TENNESSEE



Originally used at Graysville Academy, this desk served many students both in Graysville and in Collegedale after the institution moved in 1916. Desks like these were used by students enrolled in the first four grades, who were often children of parents in the community. Because public schools were scarce (fewer than half of school-aged children in the South were regularly attending school in 1900), many of the academy's students came from non-Adventist homes.

30s

Clyde Franz, '32, says he is enjoying the mountains of North Carolina, where he has a condominium at Pisgah Estates.

Orla, attended, and **Betty (Halvorsen) Collins**, attended, retired after devoting their lives to the Lord's work at academies and youth camps.

50s

Ed Bagwell, attended, is a retired radiologic technologist in Greeneville, Tennessee.

John Oliver, '55, graduated from the Loma Linda University school of dentistry in 1959 and still has an active practice. He is a head elder and Sabbath School teacher at the Tryon Adventist Church in Tryon, North Carolina, and serves on the local school board.

Les Pendleton, '59, is retired and keeps busy with nature photography and travel.

60s

Geraldine Hollis, '63, is a public health nurse at the Alexandria Health Department in Virginia. Her son, **Todd**, attended, married Molly Groom, an attorney with Immigration Services, on May 20, 2006.

W. Lamar, '63, and **Felicia (LeVere) Phillips**, '65, are in Albania, where Lamar serves as ADRA director.

Virginia Mae (Youngberg) Lonser, attended, is a doctoral student studying curriculum and instruction at Andrews University.

Gilbert, '64, and **Virginia (Fowler) Burnham**, attended, live in Baltimore, Maryland. Gilbert is chair of the Mectizan Expert Committee, which oversees treatment of the 17.7 million people infected with onchocerciasis, often called river blindness, in 37 countries. Gilbert is professor of public health at John Hopkins University.

Barbara (Hoar) Tand, '64, has been in computer programming and systems analysis since 1980. Barbara is working on the application Mississippi Medicaid, focusing on the recipient sub-system.

Lanier Watson, '64, and wife, **Marlene**, are living in and managing the Belknap Hot Springs Resort in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon. In October 2005, Lanier retired from Pacific Union College, where

he served as dean of men. The couple invites everyone to visit their website at www.belknaphotspings.com.

Albert, '67, and **Patricia (Mooney) Dittes**, '68, live in Portland, Tennessee. Albert has written a book about Adventist history titled *Profiles of Madison College Pioneers*. Patricia is a home health wound care specialist. Their two children, **James**, '93, and **Julie (Dittes) Gates**, '94, are also graduates of Southern.

Bill Strong, '69, returned to pastoring in 1995 after 12 years as a principal and teacher. He ministers in the Carolina Conference, serving the Woodruff and Union churches in South Carolina.

Carolyn (Swain) Ree, '69, is a pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teacher at Dallas Junior Academy.

70s

Arlene (Barrera) Reynolds, attended, assists her husband, **Harold**, by working as a teacher's aide at Lakeland Adventist School. Their daughter, **Rhonda Ash**, '03, and her husband, **Jeremiah**, have a baby girl named **Naveah**.

Lee Davidson, '73, has been chosen as chair of the Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum Department at Andrews University.

John Ward, '74 & '76, taught math, Bible, history, and biology in junior and senior academies for 30 years. John has led nine Marantha trips and also works as a gospel magician. His wife is a secretary, and they have a son and daughter who both attended Southern.

Juliann (Wilke) Edgar, '75, and her husband will soon move into their 160-year-old Gothic Revival home after 10 years of renovations. Juliann is working at a long-term acute care hospital as a registered nurse case manager. Her daughter, **Dawn**, is married and her son, **Jason**, is in the 11th grade.

Cynthia (Dittman) Miller, '77, married Terry and moved to Everett, Washington, where she works as a substitute teacher. Cynthia has two grown daughters. One is married to a Marine, and the other is working as a project engineer in Southern California.

Charles Brown, '77, works in pain management at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. Charles and his wife, **Nancy**, celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on a cruise ship to the Hawaiian Islands in September 2006.



Glen, '77, and **Beth (Swanson) Garver**, '77, have been pastoring in the Carolina Conference since 1979. Beth works at a long-term care agency, where she serves as

nurse supervisor. They have three children: **Nina Kesselring**, '02, an education graduate who has a 4-year-old daughter; **Ben**, a current Southern student majoring in health science (pre-dental); and **Aimee Renee**, an eighth grader who recently had her poem published in the *Adventist Review*.

Tim, '79, and **Jamie (Newton) Grindley**, '76, live in Tryon, North Carolina, where they own an exercise center, *Curves for Women*. They have five children: **Keturah**, **Caleb**, **Annelise**, **Jens**, and **Marita**.

Jim, '79, and **Myrna (Litchfield) Closser**, '79, have one son, **Jimmy**, 17, who is a junior at Madison Academy. Myrna is teaching kindergarten, and Jim is working as vice president of Alumni and Development at Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia.

Sandi Opp, '79, and her husband run an organization called *People of Peru Project*, which transports missionaries to the headwaters of the Amazon jungle.

80s

Desmond, '80, and **Pam (Hall) Suarez**, '80, live in Waynesville, North Carolina. Pam is a risk manager at Pisgah Manor, and Desmond is a furniture maker. They have two sons.

Kevin, '81, and **Karen (Eckright) Pires**, '83, were in concert June 10, 2006, as part of the Blessed Hope Evangelism and Blessed Hope Quarter reunion in Blueridge and Ellijay, Georgia. Their two daughters, **Shellie** and **Karla**, are students at Southern.

Julia (Newlon) Danforth, '82, is a physician who works locum tenens (temporary employment for physicians) for urgent care centers in Marietta, Georgia. She and her husband, **Todd**, have an 11-year-old daughter.

Tami (Powers) King, '82, is orchestra director and strings class teacher in the Spartanburg County School District 1 (Campobello, South Carolina) for Chapman High School, Mabry Junior High School, and two feeder elementary schools. She also teaches private lessons and plays violin and viola professionally.

Victor, '83 & '00, and **Rene (Albers) Czerkasij**, '82, celebrate their 25th anniversary this year. Victor graduated from Vanderbilt University as an RN and MSN Family Nurse Practitioner. He was awarded the Karen Anne Nelson and Nightingale scholarships for academic distinction and the Amy Frances Brown Prize for excellence in writing. Victor works at a dermatology practice in Dalton, Georgia. Rene works as an occupational therapist. They have two sons: **Alex**, 13, and **Nikolaus**, 11.



Pam (Streidl) Anders, '84, and her family moved to Rocklin, California, where her husband, Jay, joined Amazing Facts as vice president of administration.

Cindy Torgesen-Holliburton, '85, participated in a mission trip to Bolivia this past March.

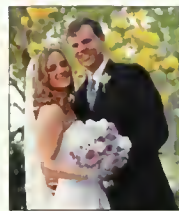
Loren Grant, '85, went back to school and completed her MBA. She no longer practices nursing but has been working in the stock market for more than 16 years.

Jon Scheffel, '86, lives in Santa Monica, California, and teaches special education at a high school. Jon traveled to Lithuania last summer to see his wife's home country.

lives. Travis finishes seminary this December and will return to Texas, where he will pastor.

Keren (Calkins) Lawrence, attended, and her husband, Orion, celebrated their sixth anniversary.

Kelli (Chalker) Johnson, '97, married Kent in March. Kelli and Kent work at the corporate office of Adventist Health System where Kelli is the director of Accounting and Kent is director of Internal Audit. The couple resides in Orlando, Florida.



Leta Sowers, '97, has moved to Los Angeles, California, and works as a personal assistant/bookkeeper with a company that buys and develops land.

Ryan, '98, and **Jessica (Cox) Perry**, '98, live in Tennessee, where he teaches physical education at Collegedale Academy and she stays home with their daughter.

Cindi (Bowe) Scavella, '98, works for Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas as a public relations coordinator/writer. She and her husband have one daughter.

James, '98, and **Merrilyn (Carey) Johnson**, '99, live in Zephyr Hills, Florida, where James is the associate pastor at East Pasco Church. Merrilyn is a stay-at-home mother to daughter, Carys Leigh, born February 13, 2005.

Brent Ruckle, '99, and his wife, Heidi, are expecting a child in January 2007. The couple has two children, Gilda, 5, and Lydia, 1. Brent teaches at Louisville Junior Academy in Louisville, Kentucky.

Moses Guerrero, '99, and his wife, Betty, have a daughter, Cindy, who was born in 2005. Moses is a chaplain at Mountain View Academy in California.

00s

Laura (Vance) Standish, '00, married Rob in September 2004.



Marius, '03, and **Sarah (Matthews) Asaftei**, '03, live in Georgia, where Marius is a pastor of two churches. Sarah is a professional writer and curriculum designer who works from home for the communication department of

the Trans-European Division developing adult training materials and books for evangelism to postmodernists.

Amber Laing, '04, is studying nurse anesthesia.

Tim Jester, '05, was recognized by his employer with a Pacesetter 40 award in July 2006 for selling 43 life insur-



ance policies during his first six months working as a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual.

Rob, '06, and **Heather (Whitsett) Quigley**, '06, wed on June 11. Rob is in medical school at Loma Linda University and plans to become an orthopedic surgeon. Heather teaches third grade at Redlands Adventist Academy.

Tere-Monique Drummond, '06, is engaged to marry Kevin Carrington in January 2007. Tere-Monique works as a registered nurse at Atlanta Medical Center.

Remembrance

Jean (Quackenbush) Strickland, attended, passed away in October 2005. Jean suffered a stroke in 1997 that left her unable to walk or talk, but her husband, **Bill**, attended, says they still had some wonderful times together.

Malone H. Hendry, '51, died February 21, 2006. He was 86 and a lifelong resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Memorial donations may be made to Baton Rouge Seventh-day Adventist School Worthy Student Fund, 4455 Jones Creek Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70817.

Jamile Jacobs, '51, died April 29, 2006. He had lived for more than 24 years with Parkinson's disease. Jacobs served as a pastor and missionary.

Marv Thorine Crooker, '53, passed away on May 29, 2006. She is survived by her husband, **Merrill**, '53, and daughter, **Marilyn**, '66.

Harry Lee Haviland, '78, passed away in his sleep July 2, 2006, at the age of 56. Survivors include his wife, **Bonnie (Erickson)**, '74; daughters, **Sally**, '01, **Sandy**, current, and **Shelly**, current; parents, **Madalin** and **Harry L. Haviland, Sr.**; sister, **Kathleen Owens**; and brother, **Arlie Haviland**.



Tricia (McKenzie) Minder, '77, died of brain cancer July 15, 2006. She is survived by her husband, **Nicholas**; sons, **Nick** and **Darren**; and daughter, **Jennifer**.

Charles Ray Lacey, retired director of the grounds department (now Landscape Services), passed away July 24. Ray served Southern from 1968 until 1993. He is survived by his wife, **Gloria**. The couple received Southern's Honorary Alumni Award in 2005.

Alfred C. McClure, '54, former North American Division president, died August 1 at the age of 74. Al is survived by his wife, **Frances**, and children: **Sally**, **Al Jr.**, and **Scott**. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Southern Adventist University Worthy Student Fund, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, Tennessee 37315.

Joanne Evans, a long-time applications manager at Southern, died October 10. Joanne is survived by her husband, **Earl**, who recently retired as director of food services, and sons, **Terry**, '82, and **Todd**, '95.

Alpine Adventures

by Jaime Myers, junior English and French major

The ski lift carried me up, up, up into the nosebleed section of the French Alps. What was I thinking? I had never snowboarded in my life. Being from Tennessee, I barely knew what snow looked like. I checked my map again to make sure I was on the right lift for the green beginner's slope. Colorful veins flowed down the picture of the mountain: green, blue, red, and black. Too dizzy to focus on it, I tucked the map into my pocket. The end of the ski lift was quickly approaching. It was now or never, do or die. I prayed it wouldn't be "die" as I positioned my board onto the snow, pushed off the lift, and face-planted into the fresh powder. It was only one of the countless times I would fall.

Through Southern, I had the opportunity to take part in the Adventist Colleges Abroad program, and thus far I had really enjoyed my time studying in France. I had promised myself that I would use my year abroad to try new things. So it seemed only natural that I would join the ski club. Along with two other snowboarding novices, I set out to tackle the Alps.

Battle With the Mountain

After spending the first outing mostly on my rear, getting sprayed with snow by passing skiers, I wasn't too sure I wanted to continue this venture. However, on the next trip, my snowboarding buddies and I braved a blue slope. Though still spending more time on my backside than I would have liked, it was the first day that I made it down an entire slope without falling (that is, if falling while exiting the lift doesn't count). On the ride back up the mountain, I looked longingly at the ski park, all the jumps and rails. I watched the skiers and snowboarders fly, flip, and spin through the air. At that moment, I made myself another promise. I would learn to jump before the ski season was over.

But it seemed the better I got at snowboarding, the greater my fear was of falling. The steeper the slope, the faster my speed, the more I dreaded the pain of hitting the ground. To make matters worse, my falling incidents were getting more embarrassing.

There was one particularly crowded slope with some people sitting in the middle of the hill while others made their way down as slowly as possible. As I dodged idle people, it was like I was transported into the "Frogger" game—avoiding obstacles but trying to make it to the other side. Halfway down, a man skied directly over the front of my snowboard. In a split second, I was sitting on the slope with everyone staring at me and an old, angry Frenchman in my lap. Needless to say, he left a large bruise.

I like to think my fear of falling was justified. I was aware that if I made

one wrong move, I could really get hurt. But there came a point where my skill level had advanced enough that I could start learning tricks, and this anxiety over hitting the ground was preventing me from reaching my goal of successfully completing a jump. So I started small. Sometimes, when I saw a small bump on the slope, I would pick up speed, sail six inches into the air, and land on shaky legs. The progress wasn't grand. A little bump on a hill is by no means a 50-foot death-wish jump, but it was a step forward. Still, it seemed that I was, in a sense, frozen by the prospect of landing on any part of my body other than my feet.

Moment of Truth

The snow quality was bad on the last outing of the season. It was ice in the morning and slush in the afternoon. Nevertheless, I had a goal, and I was going to meet it. In some sort of breakthrough, I decided it would even be acceptable to go off a jump and not land on my feet than to not try at all.

My snowboarding buddies and I had been boarding a particular slope for an hour or so. On the left edge of the hill there was a perfect jump, about two feet in the air, out of the line of sight of passersby and certainly out of their way. I sat at the top of the slope until everyone had gone down. No one would be witness to my moment of glory—or wipeout of shame. I

took two deep breaths to sedate the butterflies that were giving me indigestion, jumped up onto my board, and took off at full speed.

I didn't make the jump. Let me clarify; I didn't even make it to the jump. Right at the base of my Everest, my board sunk into a puddle of slush and in a flashback to the beginning of the whole experience, I once again found myself face down in the snow. But that's okay. I faced my fear. In the end I picked myself up, wiped the slush off my sunglasses, scooted carefully around the jump, and continued charging my way down the hill.

Everyone hits bumps in life. Everyone, in some way, falls. The real trick, I learned, is to pick myself up, dust myself off, and keep going. Besides, I need a challenge for next season. ♦



Jaime Myers conquered her fears while learning to snowboard in the French Alps.



Students participate in a dissecting project during Neville Trimm's Animal Physiology class. PHOTOGRAPHER: Billy Howard

